

LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
485,000

No 63,067

Soviet missiles modified to target Europe

Moscow alters ranges to compensate for treaty

From Michael Evans, Brussels

American reconnaissance satellites have provided evidence that the Soviet Union is carrying out tests to shorten the range of some intermediate ballistic missiles so that they can be retargeted towards Europe.

A classified intelligence briefing was given to Defence Ministers at the Nato Planning Group in Brussels to underline the steps being taken by the Soviet Union to "restructure" their nuclear weapons to take account of the elimination of intermediate-range missiles under the INF Treaty.

The force of the American briefing, which Mr. George

Younger, Secretary of State for Defence described as "very impressive," put the INF Treaty into a new realistic context. For, as one American source put it, as the West wavered over what steps to take to restructure its nuclear forces after INF, the Soviet Union had already made up its mind.

Although NATO leaders at the meeting in Brussels continued to praise the INF

Washington — Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, will meet in Geneva on May 11 and 12 for further preparatory work on the Moscow summit later in the month, it was announced yesterday.

After the briefing, according to sources, Mr Frank Carlucci, the US Defence Secretary, said that the Soviet Union's modernization of its nuclear weapons in Europe was also continuing "unabated".

There were more short-range SS21 missiles replacing the Frog-7, and many more dual-capable strike aircraft, especially the Su24 Fencer, the supersonic swing-wing fighter which compares with the American F-111 bomber.

According to one Nato source, a senior official from the American Defence Intelligence Agency revealed that the Soviet Union has tested a shortened version of the SS19 ICBM. During the tests, the missile's normal range of 6,250 miles had been reduced to between 1,450 and 1,625 miles.

A senior American defence department source said that there was no proof that the missiles involved in the tests would definitely be re-targeted against Europe. But he said that the Soviet Union had demonstrated the capability of launching these missiles at lower ranges.

He also emphasized that the measures now being taken by the Soviet Union were not necessarily "compensating" for the INF Treaty. He said: "They have been doing this restructuring over a long period. We are the only ones who have been having agonizing debates."

The SS19, codenamed Stiletto by Nato, was deployed in 1982 and it is armed with six

550-kilotonne independently targeted warheads.

In a slide show, the intelligence officer also showed the defence ministers how some of the new rail-mobile SS24 and road-mobile SS25 ballistic missiles, which have "a variable range", had been relocated to target Europe. The numbers of these missiles were also growing rapidly.

The latest moves by the Soviet Union, after the signing of the INF Treaty in Washington last December, were spelled out in detail during the intelligence briefing. Other measures that have been taken include the redeployment of Soviet submarines, such as the Yankee class boats, armed with cruise missiles to European waters.

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According to sources, Mr Carlucci said that the Soviet Union now had about 4,000 nuclear-capable aircraft, of which 25 to 30 per cent were "exclusively" configured for nuclear use.

Mr Carlucci is said to have given a warning that, after INF, the deployment by the Soviet Union of more mobile missiles with variable ranges "increased the threat to Europe" because they could hit any European target.

The Nuclear Planning Group is meeting in Brussels to discuss Nato's plan for adjusting its nuclear weapon deployments in the light of the INF Treaty, as well as considering how to modernize existing weapons in Europe. According to one source, during the American intelligence briefing one of the defence ministers said: "That's exactly what we should be doing."

But the decision on whether to deploy more American nuclear weapons in Europe and assign cruise missiles

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Floating picket shadows Belgian P&O arrival



A seaborne National Union of Seamen picket watching helplessly in Dover harbour yesterday afternoon as a Belgian P&O ferry slips quietly into port.

Benefits concessions win over Tory rebels

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

A threatened rebellion on housing benefit by Conservative MPs was headed off yesterday with concessions worth £100 million.

It was the second triumph in nine days for backbench power, after the £130 million package of rebates designed to buy off rebels on the poll tax. It represented a direct reversal for the Prime Minister who had argued only a fortnight before in resolute defence of the new £6,000 capital limit for housing benefit.

The Government coasted through the vote on the Labour motion criticizing the housing benefit changes by 324 votes to 228, a majority of 96.

Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, told MPs that the capital limit, which cuts off from housing benefit those with savings worth £6,000, is to be raised to £8,000.

This will bring back into benefit 100,000 of the 150,000 who had lost it under the new rules introduced this month.

In another big change, Mr Moore explained that transitional cash help would be provided to meet all losses of benefit over £2.50 per week for the "target groups" the new benefit rules are designed to help — pensioners, disabled people, families with children and single parents.

The case of old people who

have been disqualified from benefit while disposing of a house they owned, or because of the notional value of an unsaleable house, is also to be tackled. In future people entering a care home will be allowed six months to dispose of their property with the possibility of an extension to that time limit where there is genuine difficulty.

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The £2,000 extension on the housing benefit capital limit was welcomed by Tory MPs as a "political necessity" in buying off Conservative supporters who felt they were being penalized for the threat which their government allegedly encourages.

Conservative MPs were equally alarmed about the number of cases of genuine hardship among people who had suffered a sharp cutback in their income as a result of the benefit changes. This arose particularly in cases where local authorities had applied their discretion to pay different rates of housing benefit and had disregarded elements in income which were no longer disregarded under the new rules.

The capital limit concession will cost around £30 million. The other changes will benefit

some 300,000 people at a cost of around £70 million. The Department of Health and Social Security agreed that most of the 5.5 million losers under the original changes would still lose something but argued that few would now suffer a dramatic loss.

The Department could give no figures for those outside the "target groups" who will not benefit from the £2.50-plus safety net.

Mr Moore told MPs that the Government was responding to "very sensible pressures" from its own backbenchers and others. While Tory MPs were relieved by the package of measures he announced they were once again disappointed by his hesitant delivery after another courtesying attack from Mr Robin Cook, the Labour spokesman on social security.

Mr Cook said the housing benefit changes introduced by the Government had been greeted with disbelief, despair and anger. He called for adjustments to meet the worst anomalies but for the scrapping of the whole structure, which he described as "totally unsound".

It was evident immediately after Mr Moore's speech that the Conservative rebellion, which the whips had feared

Continued on page 22, col 2

Court warns NUS not to intimidate Sealink crewmen

By Tim Jones, David Sapsted and Howard Foster

As the P&O ferry dispute spread to other ports yesterday, the National Union of Seamen was given a clear warning that it will face sequestration of its £2.2 million assets today unless it can restrain members from preventing Sealink crews joining their ships.

Dover job cuts 2

The warning came as P&O European Ferries confirmed that 247 of its own "experienced seafarers" have been flown out to join the company's ships in Rotterdam and a 25-strong advance party which arrived last Saturday.

As the company pressed on with plans to sail at least one and possibly three of its ferries from Rotterdam within the next 24 hours, the Labour Party threw its weight behind the strikers and pledged to repeal the law which had enabled P&O to dismiss them during an industrial dispute.

In a meeting attended by Mr Sam McCuskie, the union's general secretary, Labour's ruling national executive called on the Government to step in and exercise its powers to ensure passenger safety. It suggested that failure to act might have something to do with P&O's contributions to Tory funds.

The TUC General Council

expressed "outrage" at P&O management tactics and congratulated the NUS on the "solidarity and discipline" of its members.

As pickets continued to man the lines in Dover, the disruption spread to Hull where 80 employees of North Sea Ferries, partly owned by P&O, went on unofficial strike and Folkestone, where Sealink sailings to the Continent were halted by pickets persuading crewmen to stay away.

The union received the support it expected from France where two large transport unions said they would

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INSIDE

THE TIMES
STOCK
WATCH

In its first week, STOCKWATCH, the most comprehensive information phone-line service in Britain, attracted more than 10,000 members — and the service is free to Times readers. STOCKWATCH details: pages 23, 24

NEXT WEEK

INGENUITY

A new game to test your mental agility — with prizes worth more than £13,000. For a taste of INGENUITY, turn to page 13

IN PART 2

Jobs trend

More than half of Britain's working population is in the information business and our prosperity depends on adjusting to the trend, says an introduction to seven pages of appointments. Pages 32-38

England draw

England's footballers drew 0-0 against Hungary in Budapest. Page 11

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Tournament of the Mind

Just one slip in £5,000 win

By Alan Franks

Mr Malcolm Girling, aged 37, an unemployed librarian from Cambridge is the winner of The Times Tournament of the Mind. He receives the individual prize of £5,000 and a model of Rodin's sculpture The Thinker.

Out of a starting field of more than 30,000 competitors, Mr Girling was one of 124 finalists who successfully answered 20 rounds of problems. In the finals, he answered all but one of the 54 questions correctly.

He attributes his success partly to his training as a computer programmer, partly to intelligence, but above all to persistence. Up to the eve of the closing date for entries, he was working 15 hours a day, and at times spending 10 hours to check and double check a single answer, once even travelling 30 miles by



Malcolm Girling: 30 miles by bus to check one answer but to discover an answer.

Shortly after hearing of his triumph, he said that part of his winnings would be invested in a new computer, his six-year-old model having developed faults immediately

the tournament was over. "It must have been the strain."

Mr Harold Gale, executive director of British Mensa, which set the questions, said yesterday: "The standard of entry in the final round was astoundingly high, and the

Spectrum 13

average mark was about 90 per cent. The lowest was 30 per cent, and that was from an airline pilot who was away all the time and unable to use reference books.

"From the standard of Mr Girling's answers I would judge him to have an IQ of 155 plus which would put him in the top one per cent of the population. He did very well indeed."

The final results of the tournament's schools section will be announced tomorrow.

Marines are sent to quell Kanaks

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

France is flying 250 Marines to its South Pacific territory of New Caledonia after armed separatists captured more French hostages — including the head of a crack anti-terrorist squad.

The troops, in five plane-loads, were said to be from a base at Vannes, where two units of France's elite Rapid Action Force and a Marine regiment are based.

The capture of Captain Philippe Legorjus, five other members of the Groupe d'Intervention de la Gendarmerie Nationale, and a local magistrate is a severe blow to French self-esteem. The force of 100 specially trained and heavily armed para-military police went to New Caledonia only a week after four gendarmes were killed and another 27 abducted on the outlying island of Ouvéa.

According to French sources

in New Caledonia, Captain Legorjus and his squad, accompanied by a local magistrate, were abducted as they tried to establish contact with the Kanak separatists.

France's growing concern was demonstrated earlier in Paris yesterday when the Australian Ambassador received a dressing down for his country's alleged "interference" in events there. Mr Edward Pocock was told that remarks by the Australian Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, and his Foreign Minister constituted "unacceptable" meddling.

To round off a vexing day for the Government, France's constitutional council announced that it was partially annulling the results of last Sunday's voting in New Caledonia in the first round of the presidential election.

Kanaks in court, page 7

What the Virgin Queen may owe to a PR man

By Alan Hamilton

Queen Elizabeth is said to have said it. Flora Robson certainly said it in the stirring celluloid epic *Fire Over England*. But, it is now suggested, the Virgin Queen's assertion in the face of the approaching Armada that she had the body of a weak and feeble woman was actually the work of a Tudor version of Mr Larry Speakes.

Folklore and the passage of time have embraced the Queen's supposed speech to her army at Tilbury in August 1588, in which she claimed to have the heart of a king, and a king of England too, as a factual addition to the canon of English patriotism. But according to an article in the current edition of the magazine *History* Today, published today, there is no

firm evidence that she said any such thing.

Mr Felix Barker, the journalist and historian, claims in the magazine that the only eyewitness present to make a contemporary account of the speech was a young poet, James Aske, who makes no mention of the words which have passed into history; instead, his version has her giving an undertaking to march with her troops like the Roman goddess Bellona.

The earliest traceable reference to agree with Mr Barker, although Professor Patrick Collinson of Sheffield University, soon to be Regius Professor of History at Cambridge, cautioned that, in the days before everything was written down, lack of written evidence should not be taken

as absolute proof that something did not occur.

Dr Simon Adams of the University of Strathclyde, a specialist in Armada history, said that Sharp's version of the speech was probably an embellishment of the truth.

"There is little doubt that she delivered a speech which made an impact, but Sharp was a clergyman on the make, anxious to demonstrate his own importance and how close he was to the Queen.

Lack of firm evidence will not prevent a chain of fires being lit the length of the land in July to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the weak and feeble woman's triumph over the might of Philip II, the birth of the British Empire, and the probable birth of the art of public relations.

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Over 100 Mirror journalists to go

Mirror Group Newspapers is to dismiss most of the 136 journalists on its three titles in Manchester, staff were told yesterday. Journalists on the *Daily Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror* and *The People* owned by Mr Robert Maxwell, received letters telling them of the decision to cut the staff from May 8.

Some will be offered the chance to stay or transfer to London. The company's new European daily newspaper is also recruiting, the letter says. Those leaving would receive four times the statutory redundancy pay "subject to normal working". The letter added: "We are grateful to you for your past service and regret that the dramatic change in national newspaper production has brought it to an end."

Staff fear that the number remaining in Manchester could be cut to as few as 20; and the decision has been criticized by Mr Keith Meadows, of the National Union of Journalists. "There is no logic in it. The circulation in the north has been increasing."

50 held in soccer raid

Almost 50 West Ham United and Crystal Palace football supporters were under arrest yesterday after more than 250 officers took part in dawn raids across London and the Home Counties aimed at smashing two hooligan gangs. The arrests were the latest in an increasing number of operations up and down the country during the 1987-8 football season directed at hooliganism. Supporters of clubs in London, the Midlands and the north have been arrested this season. Yesterday's raids were the culmination of undercover investigations in east and south London.

Stab case adjourned

A youth was further remanded on conditional bail yesterday charged with the murder of Carol Baldwin, aged 13, who was stabbed in the back in a park at Northampton last month. Mr Michael Galpin, for Craig Staton, asked Northampton magistrates to lift reporting restrictions, and told them: "We are dealing here with a 17-year-old youth charged with murder and that will scar him for life. He has got a job which he cannot go to because of threats which have been made against him, his family has had to move, and yet he is innocent." A girl aged 12 has also been accused of murder. The hearing was adjourned to May 25.

Delay on ruling

A High Court judge in London yesterday adjourned until Friday his decision on whether Cleveland County Council can go ahead with its case alleging contempt of court against three newspapers for publishing articles identifying two children involved in the Cleveland sexual abuse inquiry. Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, heard submissions from the newspapers - *The Mail on Sunday*, *The Sun* and the *Mirror* - that they had no case to answer. He said that the case raised "very important problems".

Challenge to Wales TUC debate on single-union agreements

Electricians sign further no-strike deals

By Roland Rudd

The electricians' union has signed new single-union, no-strike agreements with two companies in South Wales, confounding its critics on the left who want to ban such deals.

The defiant move came on the eve of today's Wales TUC debate on whether single-union deals should be outlawed. The TUC disputes committee has ordered the electricians to withdraw from similar deals signed recently with two other companies.

The Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, which has threatened to ballot its members if the TUC draws up a new code of conduct to prevent it signing no-strike deals, may ignore the instruction, which it has described as "a sinister ploy to bleed us to death by a thousand cuts".

Mr Wyn Bevan, EETPU executive councillor, said last night that the union had secured exclusive

recognition rights at Scandinavian Sound Industry and Electronic Harnesses UK.

He said: "The policy of our union, democratically arrived at annual conference, proves yet again that workers recognize the importance of resolving differences with management through arbitration."

The two companies which signed the no-strike agreements said that the EETPU was chosen to represent the workforce because it offered compulsory binding pendulum arbitration.

Electronic Harnesses, which manufactures electrical appliances in Mid Glamorgan, is hoping to expand its workforce from 30 to 300 within three years. Scandinavian Sound Industry, which manufactures loud speakers at Cardiff, is hoping to expand its workforce to 45 by next November.

Every worker at both companies

The TUC General Council pulled back yesterday from its threat to suspend the electricians and instead voted to "censure strongly" the union for its admitted breach of TUC directives in the News International move to Wapping, east London.

Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, was supported by 27 votes to 13 to censure the union at the General Council meeting next month, after legal advice that a temporary

suspension was against TUC rules.

Mr Willis said: "It is a very severe penalty for a trade union affiliated to the TUC to be censured by its own equals and representatives of the whole trade union movement."

Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary of the EETPU, said that having prevented the TUC from suspending the union on legal grounds it would not "co-operate with an inadmissible penalty under TUC rules".

That are negotiated with employers to enforce no-strike deals".

It goes further than past motions critical of the electricians by asking the council to take "whatever action is necessary" to prevent the "minority of unions" from signing strike-free clauses.

Mr Bevan said: "I have no intention of being dictated to by the likes of these moronic extremists. I promise them that we shall go on

signing no-strike deals whether they like it or not. If we were ever prevented from signing them we would simply leave the TUC."

The electricians have put forward their own motion, calling on the movement to create a more receptive public opinion of unions to mobilize the big number of workers who are non-unionized.

However, the motion faces stiff opposition after the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union tabled an amendment calling on unions to "acknowledge in principle and practice the TUC guidelines on no-strike clauses".

Wales TUC officials disclosed that there had been behind-the-scenes moves to get Nup and the MSF to withdraw the motion and amendment in the interests of unity.

If the unions refuse, they are expected to be carried with the support of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Education Bill's critics join forces on religion

By Nicholas Wood and Sheila Gunn

Backbench Conservative peers are to join forces with opposition parties in a powerful attempt to force key changes in the Government's Education Reform Bill next week.

They hope to make religious education lessons predominantly Christian in a move aimed at halting the drift towards syllabuses covering all faiths and atheism.

In a separate challenge led by Lord Joseph, the former Secretary of State for Education and Science, an attempt will be made to give schools the right to pick and choose from the proposed compulsory national curriculum of 11 subjects.

If successful, both moves threaten to embarrass considerably Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science.

A government spokesman told the House of Lords in February that Britain was no longer a predominantly Christian country and that schools reflected the multi-faith nature of the country.

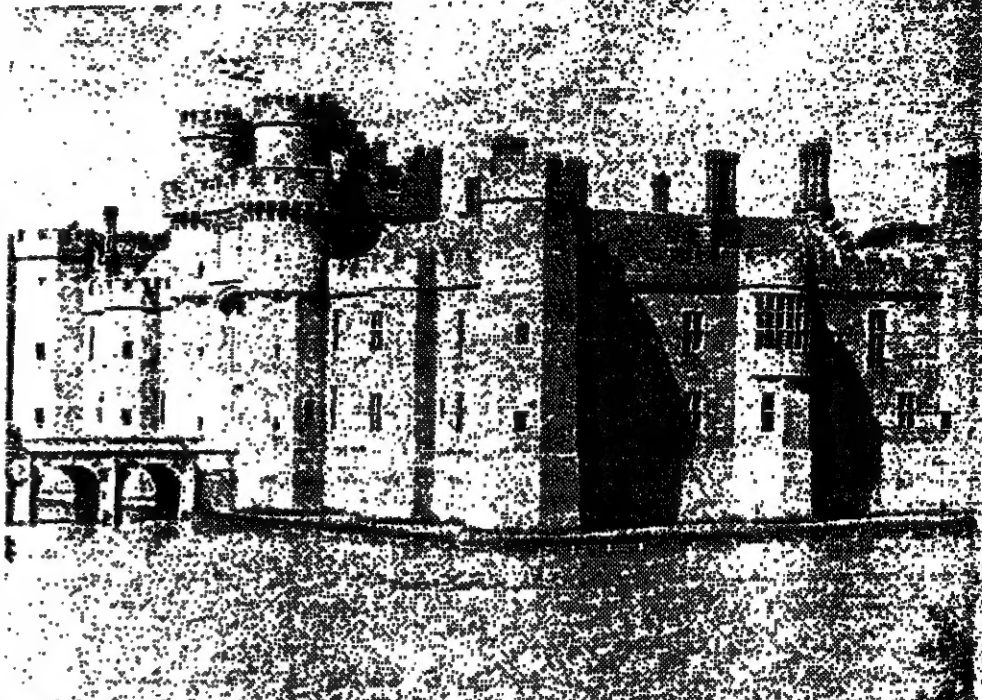
However, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who has held private meetings with leading Conservatives over the content of religious education teaching, is said to be "highly supportive" of the effort to clarify the law and compel schools to give pupils a largely Christian grounding.

Government sources said yesterday that the stance adopted by bishops would be a key factor in determining the outcome.

The attempt will inevitably be interpreted in some quarters as an attack on ethnic minority religions. One insider said that it would be difficult for the Government to go further than the established Church in insisting on the teaching of Christianity.

The twin assault on the Government's plans will be launched next Tuesday in the Lords at the start of the committee stage scrutiny of the 198-clause Bill, the biggest educational upheaval since the 1944 Act.

Castle for sale at £10m



Hermonceux Castle, the home of the Royal Greenwich Observatory, is up for sale at around £10 million.

The 900-year-old moated castle, near Battle in East Sussex, was put on the market by the Government's Science and Engineering Research Council.

Listed in the Domesday Book, where it was valued at just £1, Hermonceux has been the home of the observatory since 1946, when it

was bought by the Admiralty for £76,000.

Greenwich Mean Time, the international time-zone system, has been set by clocks housed at Hermonceux.

The observatory moved from Greenwich because deteriorating atmospheric conditions in the capital caused by pollution interfered with astronomical observations. Most of the observatory's work is now carried out overseas.

Harbour board cuts 100 jobs

Dover hit by effect of strike

By David Sapsted

A decision by Dover Harbour Board yesterday to cut its workforce by 100 as a direct result of the three-month seamen's strike illustrated the crippling effect the dispute is having on Britain's busiest ferry port.

The board, income for which derives from landing and cargo fees, has lost £2.5 million since the P&O dispute started. Losses are currently £150,000 a week.

Although the board hopes to achieve the job cuts through voluntary redundancies and natural wastage, it told its 1,000 workers yesterday that "if the dispute continues, we cannot offer indefinite guarantees of employment".

A strike by disgruntled workers would be a big blow for the docks and for Dover town, which relies on a thriving cross-Channel trade.

"A complete shutdown will be extremely serious", Mr Graham Forster, vice chairman of Dover District Council policy and resources committee, said. "It would have obvious short-term effects but could cause even more serious damage to Dover's long-term prospects."

"Apart from individual hardship and the inevitable knock-on effect on local trade,

Kent police are ready to use tactics pioneered in the miners' strike four years ago if picket-line violence in the seamen's strike threatens to get out of hand.

"We learnt a lot from that strike and we learnt it the hard way. If the situation deteriorates at Dover, we know we will be able to handle it", a senior officer said.

Contingency plans include the potential to move in hundreds of officers from neighbouring forces, particularly Essex and Sussex, by bus.

The (P&O) dispute is damaging the reputation of Dover at a time when we are trying to build it up to meet the challenge of the Channel Tunnel", Mr Forster said.

Mr Forster and many of his colleagues on the Conservative-controlled council believe P&O should accept independent arbitration, as the seamen are prepared to.

"The politics of confrontation do not work in a local situation like this. I think everyone accepts that the company should eventually get 90 per cent of what it wants but, for the sake of the community, it should be a gradual, phased agreement", he said.

In Dover's High Street,

traders have suffered a drop in takings. "People are still coming in but many are not spending as much", one supermarket manager said.

Several smaller traders are offering discounts to strikers' families and others are supplying free or cost-priced food to the two soup kitchens set up for members of the National Union of Seamen.

Up to 150 people, mainly wives and children, are fed in a kitchen set up in the Salvation Army hall in the town centre. Chefs dismissed from the ferries cook the food.

Strikers have received only one strike payment, £50, from the union in the past 12 weeks.

One P&O seaman said: "Apart from that, my wife and two children have had to rely on £18 a week in benefits. Without the food kitchens we would starve."

Mrs Elizabeth Kaley, married to a striker, said: "I would prefer my husband to sell our house rather than accept one of the new contracts from P&O. Apart from the conditions they want to impose, I do not believe the company is paying the consideration it should to the safety of the ferries."

Since the dispute started about 2,000 pay packets have been withheld.

Seamen's union could lose £2.2m

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The National Union of Seamen could lose about £2.2 million if Sealink succeeds in a High Court action to seize the union's assets because of the disruption at Dover.

That is the latest figure listed in the returns of the Certification Officer, whose report for 1987 was published last week.

In February, the NUS was fined £7,500 for defying an

injunction preventing a national strike over the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company dispute. That three-day action is believed to have cost the union another £25,000 in legal fees and other costs.

Mr Sam McCluskie, the NUS general secretary, said at the time that he was not worried about fines or costs because he claimed his union was "skint". It emerged that the NUS total assets stood at

£2.8 million, but since then they have dropped by more than £500,000.

The latest state of the NUS shows that there were 27,457 members at the beginning of last year, 1,152 of them women. More than £1.6 million of its funds came from members' subscriptions and nearly £130,000 from investment income. Last year the union made £13,558 on the sale of investments.

Runcie optimistic on unity

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, is said to be confident the Lambeth Conference, made by the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ArCic),

The open letter to members of the Lambeth Conference, signed by more than 300 senior Evangelical churchmen and reported in *The Times* yesterday, was being regarded in the church as a benchmark defining the least favourable position.

The Evangelical open letter said they were prepared to "contemplate" a united church headed by the Pope,

provided his powers were scaled down.

Female ordination will be the most serious internal Anglican issue before the conference, made more pressing by the desire of Anglicans in the United States to consecrate the first woman-bishop in the near future.

Asked to indicate, in advance of the Lambeth Conference, how they assess the progress made by the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ArCic),

The place of the Pope in a united church is expected to emerge as the most controversial issue.

That confidence was based on detailed examination of initial responses from the Anglican Communion's 26 provinces, which have been

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Pupils are rewriting anti-racist policy after school murder

School pupils are helping to rewrite anti-racist policy criticised as a disaster by an inquiry panel investigating the murder of Ahmed Ullah, aged 13, at Burnage High School, Manchester.

Fourth and fifth formers, teachers, governors and parents from the school have been meeting independently every fortnight since last September to discuss changes to the controversial policy introduced by Dr Gerald Gough, the headmaster.

It is expected that the new policy will be implemented to "defuse disturbing tension" at the school when the winter term begins next September.

However, Mrs Fatima Ullah, mother of the murdered boy, said yesterday: "It is all very well having anti-racist policies, except the death of my son has proved how worthless they are."

"All they do is to differentiate between the black and white boys and create a huge gulf instead of drawing them closer together."

"What we in the Asian community want is not to be singled out for special treatment but to be treated as ordinary people, irrespective of the colour of our skins. We are no different from anyone else and the last thing we want is to be singled out, for whatever reasons."

Mrs Ullah said the anti-racist policy in force at Burnage High School was a superficial sham. "I just hope my son's death has not been in vain, that there will be a fresh start for all the school's children, not just the Asians."

"That the children are helping to rewrite school policy warms my heart. Their common sense is worth far more than the hypocrisy of adults."

Mrs Sylvia McDonagh, a teacher at the school, said: "The death of this young boy has forced every one of us to critically re-examine the anti-racist policy at this school, which we now all know to have been fatally misinterpreted in the past."

"Involvement of pupils as well as teachers and parents was crucial because they know better than any of us what goes on in the playground and what new measures have to be urgently introduced."

"Perhaps it will mean for the first time this school will have an anti-racist policy of which everyone, black and white, can be justifiably proud, one that will unite pupils instead of separating them into warring camps."

Mr Ian McDonald, QC, an authority on racial and immigration matters, who chaired the nine-month inquiry into the death, is also highly critical of the anti-racist policy at the school.

In his report, which is yet unpublished by Manchester City Council because parts of its contents have been adjudged defamatory by counsel, Mr McDonald says: "Burnage High School presents a paradox."

"Its governors and senior management are committed to anti-racist policies in perhaps a more whole-hearted way than any other Manchester school."

"Yet at the same time the school has been the scene of greater racial conflict, and polarization of its students along racial lines, than any other school we have heard of."

The different school groups meeting to discuss changes in the anti-racist policy are likely to merge within the next month to produce a final outline. Closely monitoring the recommendations will be Mrs Ullah and her husband, Habib, who are still devastated by their son's death.

Mr Ullah, aged 58, suffered a big heart attack shortly after the killing and was advised by doctors to sell the highly successful restaurant business he owned in Manchester.

He and his wife have subsequently moved with their



The death of my son has proved how worthless anti-racist policies are

— Mrs Fatima Ullah

Heart baby's first birthday joy



Kaylee Davidson, Britain's youngest surviving heart transplant patient, is one today and yesterday she was celebrating with her mother Carol at home in Washington, Tyne and Wear.

Kaylee was four months old when she was admitted to the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne last October and found to be suffering from viral cardiomyopathy. Her parents, Carol and Mark Davidson, learnt that the only hope of saving her life was a heart transplant operation.

A man whose wife and 10-week-old daughter were killed in a car crash offered the donor heart and the subsequent operation took six and a half hours.

Mrs Davidson, aged 20, said: "Kaylee is leading such a normal life at the moment, half the time we forget what has happened to her. But we know that without the decision to allow the other baby's heart to be used we would not be celebrating our daughter's birthday."

"The doctors tell us that they are learning a tremendous amount from Kaylee and we hope that knowledge will go on to be used to help other children."

The only difference between Kaylee, who is on the verge of taking her first steps, and other children of similar age is that she has to take drugs daily to prevent her body rejecting her new heart and she must visit hospital every two weeks for a check up. Staff at the hospital are holding a party for her today.

Mr John Dark, director of the hospital's transplant programme who assisted in Kaylee's operation, said although he did not know what her long-term future held, prospects for the short and medium term were good. There were several other children in the region likely to need new hearts within the next year. He appealed for more donor organs.

(Photograph: Michael Scott)

BBC will spend £62m more on news

The BBC's network of foreign bureaux and correspondents is to be expanded as the corporation injects an extra £62 million into its news and current affairs output over the next five years, it was said yesterday.

A television bureau will open in Paris later this year, Moscow is to have facilities for a television crew and picture editing, and the Washington bureau will be enlarged.

"By the end of this year, there will be detailed plans for a major expansion in Tokyo and for television bureaux in additional European capitals, the Middle East, India and Latin America", according to Mr Ian Hargreaves, managing editor of news and current affairs.

"The broad aim is to create major multi-correspondent bureaux in the main centres of political and economic power. Apart from boosting the BBC's worldwide news-gathering machine, the centres will be the cornerstone of a planned weekly foreign affairs programme due to start in the autumn of 1990."

The existing £80 million a year news and current affairs budget will be boosted by £5.3 million in 1988/9, rising to an extra £15.6 million by 1992/3, resulting in an increase of at least 100 staff.

While £54 million of the extra funding will be new money, £8 million will accrue from savings made through "greater efficiency". BBC spokesmen declined to say where the savings would be made, but the introduction of one-man cameras are almost certain.

The corporation plans to establish specialist units with experience in foreign affairs, business and economics, and social affairs, serving all news and current affairs programmes.

It also aims to expand the political and parliamentary units, and launch new weekly programmes specialising in social affairs, economics and politics.

More than 30 hours of new radio programming is to be originated every year and £4 million is to be spent over the next five years on special one-off programmes and short-run series for TV.

A daily business news service will begin on Newsnight

Ramsden denies £1½m VAT fraud

Mr Terry Ramsden, 47, of 150 people to whom he has sold more than £3 billion, Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Ramsden, of Nevendon Road, Wickford, Essex, who is known for his horseracing interests and extravagant life style, denies a charge of fraudulent value-added tax evasion between January 7, 1984, and January 22, 1985.

Mr Ramsden is alleged to have failed to pay VAT mainly on retainers and commissions from a stock broking firm. The court was told that between 1979 and 1985 his turnover in London's share dealings at home and abroad came to £3,058,965,417. Of that he should have paid £536,000 VAT to customs.

Most of the income had come from a City stockbroker T. C. Coombes, for whom Ramsden worked as a freelance agent. Mr Ramsden introduced wealthy clients to the company.

But Mr David Paget, for the prosecution, said that Mr Ramsden, aged 36, failed to have his service VAT registered. He should have charged 15 per cent to the firm on his earnings and passed the money to customs, the jury was told.

Mr Paget said Mr Ramsden did not pocket any cash from his misdeeds, but he added: "I suppose there was a possible indirect benefit to him because his service was that much cheaper than other people's."

He said: "It is right to say that Mr Ramsden is a prominent and successful businessman with interests in horse racing, in football and in boxing."

Mr Paget said Mr Ramsden had failed to pay the VAT on trading between November 1, 1979 and August 31, 1985. He had eventually registered on January 22, 1985 and had paid all the money owed.

Mr Paget said: "The thrust of the prosecution case is really that even if he did not know that he ought to be registered to pay VAT at the very start in 1979, he must have known long before he in fact registered in 1985."

Mr Paget said that any major businessman would have been aware of the existence of VAT.

Mr Anthony Airdge, QC, for Mr Ramsden, said the sum liable for VAT had been a mere 0.13 per cent of his stocks and shares turnover.

"We deny that he was knowingly avoiding his tax liabilities to the customs and excise. Our position is that he was always ready to pay his tax liabilities", he said.

The trial continues today.

School is accused over rugby insurance delay

Bedford School was accused in the High Court yesterday of "suspending operations" instead of acting with urgency once it became aware of the need for rugby-playing pupils to be insured.

The claim was made by Mr Christopher Wilson-Smith QC, for Simon van Oppen, a former pupil, who blames the school for leaving him crippled but uninsured.

Mr Wilson-Smith told Mr Justice Boreham the school became aware of the risks in 1979 and it was suggested that an insurance scheme would be operating at the beginning of the 1980 Christmas term. He said that at the very latest a policy could have been in force by June 1980.

The insurance was set up too late for Mr van Oppen, now aged 24, who was injured while making a tackle in November 1980.

In a test case which could have wide implications for schools, he is seeking damages from the school trustees for their alleged negligence in not insuring him or coaching him properly.

The hearing, in which the trustees deny liability, is expected to end today.

Council to force burial of nurse Helen Smith

The body of the nurse Helen Smith, which has lain in a mortuary for eight years, will be buried by the local council in spite of vehement opposition from her father.

Mr Ron Smith believes his daughter, who died in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, was raped and murdered. She was found on the ground below a sixth-floor flat on May 20, 1979.

Leeds City Council municipal services committee yesterday decided to seek Mr Smith's agreement to bury Helen. Should he refuse they are determined to go ahead anyway.

Mr Smith, of Leeds, West Yorkshire, said last night that he would take all possible steps to avoid cremation or burial.

"I have struggled too long and hard to prove this was no accident but murder to allow the case to be closed now. We are not dealing with my daughter's body but a skeleton which is vital evidence and must not be buried or cremated."

Mr Graham Johnson, the council's director of municipal services, said the council was empowered to carry out the burial and would do so.

Quest for life in Arctic no man's land

Borup Fiord, a cold and remote indent in the Arctic island of Ellesmere and blank on the biological map, is to be explored this summer by a British joint services scientific expedition.

A 17-strong team from the Army, Navy and RAF with a sprinkling of civilian specialists, will spend four months studying the minute life of an uninhabited area nine degrees from the North Pole.

Lord Shackleton, patron of the expedition and son of the explorer Ernest Shackleton, introduced the project at a press conference in London yesterday. He recalled exploring Ellesmere 50 years ago when young men went off to such places "to cure their inferiority complexes and to learn how to talk to girls."

not that Ellesmere would ever have had any females to engage in conversation.

The 15 men in the team will be joined by two women: Flying Officer Sarah Pennington, of the WRAF, who holds a science degree and will be studying the entomology of the area and Miss Gervy Sweeney, a photographer.

The expedition leader, Flight Lieutenant Bill Hankinson, a navigator on Hercules aircraft, said the expedition would be the first to give saturation coverage of the plant, animal, insect and bird life of the area through an entire Arctic summer.

They would arrive as the snows covering the glaciated wilderness for nine months of the year were retreating and they would leave as a new winter set in.

They would study the feeding and social habits of the Arctic hare, discover how feasible beluga-filled kites were for aerial photography to analyse tundra, assess the abundance of insects, mites and spiders as a food source for birds and examine the rocks of the region for a geological survey of Canada. There would be a detailed watch on the Arctic charr, a salmon species thought to breed in a lake on the edge of the fiord and an archaeological search for any remains of ancient Eskimo sites.

Mr Robert Barton, scientific adviser, said results would be sent to a number of universities and institutions. The central objective would be "to discover the ways that wildlife manages to survive in an area that is covered by snow and ice for so much of the year."

THIS WEEK

The Times Property Guide

Saturday's full-colour, 16-page Times Property Guide looks at one of Italy's undiscovered provinces, the art of selling, and the effect of shopping precincts on prices

Solicitors' fund rises to £17.5m

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Solicitors will today be asked to approve a £17.5 million levy on the profession to meet a big rise in compensation claims as a result of colleagues' dishonesty.

Claims on the compensation fund which pays out when solicitors make off with clients' money or fail to pay their debts, doubled last year, the Law Society said.

One solicitor accounted for claims totalling £1,783,000, which was half the increase. He has since gone abroad.

The rise in the number and size of claims on the compensation fund mean a likely deficit of £5,345,000 for last year. Further claims and expected applications this year and next may bring the total liability to £17.5 million by the end of 1989.

If proposals from the Law Society's adjudication committee are adopted at a council meeting today, all solicitors handling clients' money, the 27,000 partners and principals in firms, will have to pay a one-off levy of £515 and an increased annual contribution of £100, from £60.

Cliff death

David Scarboro, aged 20, who played Mark Fowler in BBC Television's *EastEnders*, fell to his death from Beachy Head, East Sussex, yesterday. The actor, of Pond House, Redhouse Road, Tatsfield, Surrey, was said to have been depressed.

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IRA men in Maze jailbreak cleared of killing officer

By Robin Young

Sixteen men involved in the mass IRA jailbreak from Northern Ireland's top-security Maze prison were cleared yesterday of murdering a prison officer who died after being stabbed.

A total of 18 men were sentenced by Belfast Crown Court yesterday, including two of the escape team's leaders — the IRA's former officer-in-charge in the H-blocks, Brendan "Bik" McFarlane, aged 34, and the London car bomber Gerard Kelly, aged 33, who were both recaptured in Holland.

They were jailed for five years for imprisoning officers during the escape of 38 prisoners in September 1983.

The third leader, Bobby Storey, also from Belfast, was sentenced to seven years for his part in the jailbreak.

Of the 38, three have subsequently died in engagements with the security forces, and 10 are still at large. Seven are in prison in the Republic of Ireland, and one is serving a life sentence in England.

In court yesterday Henry Murray, from Lonsdale Avenue, West Belfast, was sentenced to eight years' prison on a series of charges, including one of wounding a prison officer who was shot in the leg.

The other prisoners, mostly from Belfast and Londonderry, were sentenced to terms of between three and seven years on charges which included escape, attempted escape, imprisoning officers, wounding, assault and riotous behaviour.

Kelly and McFarlane did not face escape charges

because of the terms under which they were extradited to Belfast from The Netherlands.

The other 16 were found not guilty of murdering Mr James Ferris, a prison officer who died after being stabbed with a screwdriver or chisel.

He had been suffering from a heart complaint and Lord Justice Lowry, who sentenced the men at the end of a three-month trial, said he could not be satisfied the stabbing was the cause of death.

Kelly, from Moyard Crescent, Belfast, also faced a charge of attempting to murder a prison officer but he was found not guilty along with the 16 others.

The first escapee to die was Kieran Fleming, a convicted murderer, who drowned in the Bannagh river, Co Fermanagh, in December 1984 while attempting to escape after a shoot-out with the SAS.

In April 1986, Seamus McElwaine, another convicted murderer, was killed by security forces.

On May 8 last year, Patrick McKearney, convicted of possessing firearms, was one of eight IRA men killed in an ambush by security forces. The men had been attempting to storm the RUC barracks at Loughgall with a 500lb bomb mounted in the scoop of a JCB earth-mover.

The prisoners still at large include Kevin Barry Artt, who at the time of the escape had served two months of a life sentence for the murder of the deputy governor of the Maze prison, Mr Albert Myles. Artt has been described as Britain's most wanted criminal and was

believed to be in command of an IRA unit sent to England to make another attempt on the life of Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Others still free are Terence Kirby, convicted of murder; Anthony McAlister, murder; Dermot McNally, causing explosions; James Joseph Smyth, attempted murder; John Fryers, armed robbery; Seamus Campbell and James Donnelly, both possessing firearms, and Paul Brennan, possessing explosives. Donnelly and Patrick McIntyre, were both re-arrested but subsequently jumped bail.

Four escapees, Seamus and James Clarke, Anthony Kelly and Robert Russell, are serving prison sentences in the Irish Republic. Seamus Clarke and Anthony Kelly had been serving sentences for murder in the Maze, and Russell for the attempted murder of an RUC superintendent.

Paul Kane, convicted of attempted murder, was re-arrested in the Republic last November after a high-speed car chase involving a car belonging to Mr Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin MP for West Belfast.

Mr Adams and Mr Danny Morrison, Sinn Féin's director of communications, were passengers in the car when it was forced off the road. Kane is now contesting extradition to the United Kingdom, as is Dermot Finnucane who was arrested in Co Longford, last November.

Gerard McDonnell, who was in the Maze for possessing explosives, has since been arrested in the United Kingdom and is serving life for his part in the Brighton bombing.

Zoo says farewell to Chia Chia

By Ruth Gledhill

Chia-Chia, London Zoo's star attraction, is going to Mexico in August, so that for the first time in 50 years the zoo will be without a giant panda.

Chia-Chia, who is unlikely to return, will be put to mate with Mexico City Zoo's seven-year-old panda Tuhui, and there is no certainty that any resultant young will come to Britain.

The project by London Zoo to export 16-year-old Chia-Chia is to come under close scrutiny by the World Wildlife Fund in the United States, where it is intended to exhibit Chia-Chia in Cincinnati Zoo for three months on the way to Mexico City to raise money to build his new home there.

The fund is concerned that Chia-Chia will raise far more money than that required to build him a new home and that the balance will not be used for panda conservation.

Mr David Jones, director of London Zoo, said yesterday that panda conservation was already well funded and other projects could equally well use any extra cash raised by Chia-Chia.

Mr Ken Cook, the press director who has been closely involved with US panda conservation, said: "It is a selfless and generous gesture for London to give up a valuable exhibit, and Mexico needs another male. But we will have to reserve comment on the Cincinnati issue."

Pandas are a top attraction in America and Chia-Chia could help Cincinnati Zoo to raise millions of dollars. The loan is an emotive topic among conservationists after the disastrous loan by China to Florida of a male and female. Amid much bad publicity, the female ovulated in transit, an event which occurs only once a year and can be exploited over a period of three days only, and she was returned early to China.



Chia-Chia: going in search of a mate while there is still time (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Mr Edward Heath, former Prime Minister, who in 1974 received Chia-Chia and his mate Ching-Ching as a gift from the Chinese Government, has welcomed the scheme as has the World Wildlife Fund in Britain.

London Zoo is anxious to contribute to panda captive breeding programmes and believes the only way to do it is to send Chia-Chia abroad.

If Chia-Chia, who has few active breeding years left, fails to mate in Mexico, he will go on to Tokyo and Washington zoos before London Zoo considers bringing him home.

Mr Jones is seeking £50,000 sponsorship to pay for Chia-Chia's flight.

"We do not have time on our side; we cannot spend three years arguing about whether a panda should come here. Our main aim is to get all the females in captivity pregnant as soon as possible."

Checks to catch overloaded lorries

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Government is to take action against overloaded foreign lorries using British roads.

The Department of Transport said yesterday that it would introduce automatic weighing equipment at five large ports to screen a high proportion of foreign lorries. In addition, it would make spot checks on 13,000 foreign lorries this year, an increase of nearly 50 per cent on 1987.

The Home Office has contacted the Magistrates' Association and expressed concern at the low level of fines — averaging £161 — for overloading.

The moves are in reply to a report by the Commons all-party Public Accounts Committee, which said heavy lorries inflicted damage of more than £600 million a year and which accused the Department of Transport of lacking "commitment, energy and drive" in tackling the problem.

The MPs said a quarter of foreign lorries weighed more than 40 tons and were served with prohibition notices, and called for compulsory weight checks at ports.

Overloading caused repair work costing more than £50 million a year and the true incidence of overloading could be as much as one lorry in three, the MPs report said.

A quarter of weighbridges were out of action at any one time, but the department said yesterday that 90 per cent were now working.

The department said that "action to reduce the adverse effects of heavy lorries... should be taken forward as quickly as possible."

District profile: Dudley

Labour picks up points for refuse

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

If Labour keeps control of the Black Country borough of Dudley it will have a lot to do with bulk refuse, according to Mr Fred Hunt, the party leader on the council.

"It's amazing how popular our new twice-a-year collection from households has been", he said.

Outside the West Midlands, Mr Hunt would probably be counted on his party's right wing but in the industrial revolution towns and villages around Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge he exemplifies a local canniness over money and property.

Control of Dudley council has swung giddily during the 1980s, and Labour has only recently strengthened its position to a comfortable command. The Conservatives need a clear gain of seven seats from Labour to win.

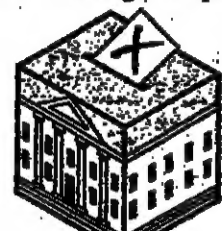
Both parties acknowledge there is talk on the doorsteps of such national issues as health. Mr Jack Edmunds, the Tory leader, said that the nurses' pay rise has taken steam out of the issue. Both he and the Labour canvassers prefer to talk about the bread and butter issues of rates and services, and both are happy to offer themselves to the electorate on performance.

Labour, Mr Edmunds said, has added £25 million to the wages bill by taking on extra staff, yet cunningly used some £14.5 million of reserves to cushion this April's rate rise.

"We are making people aware that there will be a reckoning to be paid next year — rates may then have to rise by 25 per cent."

In a borough where familiar faces and personal reputation count for a great deal, there is this May a large turnover of members. Seven of the 24 seats being contested have no sitting councillor in the ballot.

Labour is proud of its record in office. "We've put more into road maintenance and cleansing, spent more on school buildings, employed



LOCAL ELECTIONS

more staff in old people's homes, opened the Stourbridge leisure centre... Dudley is getting a better bargain under Labour," Mr Hunt said.

Yet the very focus on council services is perhaps an indication of how the political and economic climates have been changing in the West Midlands. Relative economic prosperity has taken the sting out of the jobs issue.

The recession in manufacturing and the high unemployment it brought earlier in the 1980s has not been forgotten — there is all-party support for the two areas in Dudley designated as enterprise zones, though increasing disagreement about the large-scale retail developments that are replacing the old iron and steel plants.

Village fights for right of no taxes

By Andrew Morgan

The village of Knighton, Staffordshire, the only community exempt from rates, has roundly supported its local MP in an attempt to keep its 300-year-old right in the face of attempts to introduce the community charge.

Its optimism has been encouraged by government concessions and the much reduced majority in the Commons on the "ability to pay" amendment of Mr Michael Mates, Conservative MP for Hampshire East.

Mr William Cash, Conservative MP for Stafford, tabled an amendment to the Local Government Finance Bill this week to keep Knighton's tax-free status.

Thirty-one of the 34 properties in the village are exempt from paying rates under an Act introduced by Charles II in 1660 for 1,000 acres of land around Knighton which was owned by William Adams, a London haberdasher.

Adams used the endowment from the land to set up the Haberdashers' School at Newport, Shropshire. In return, it was exempt from all taxes. It remains so, in spite of changes of ownership.

Mr Cash said the 1660 Act stated that the villagers "shall not at any time hereafter be rated, taxed, or assessed to pay any sum or be charged in any way whatsoever". The Government would have to overturn the Act with an order dating back to Henry VIII.

He said: "If Parliament decides, there is no reason why certain categories cannot be excluded from the community charge. But to use a statutory instrument to repeal an earlier Act of Parliament is itself offensive. In the 1925 Rating and Valuation Act the rural district council, as it was then, was given the opportunity to try to end the exemption and took no action."

Mrs June Taverner, who runs the Haberdashers' Arms in the village with her husband, said: "We agree that the tax on each head would not be monumental but we think the addition is being eroded in many places and it would be a good idea to keep these ancient rights." She said a lack of basic services offset the absence of rates.

NOW WE'RE STRIDING EVEN FURTHER AHEAD.



At the Annual General Meeting on the 27th April, Abbey National's Chairman, Sir Campbell Adamson, made the following comments:

"In 1987, Abbey National faced increasingly aggressive competition from all quarters. Yet we have had our best year ever.

This was achieved by improving the quality and broadening the range of our customer service, whilst remaining extremely competitive in the savings and mortgage markets.

Record growth.

Assets rose to £26,411 million and reserves rose to £1,133 million, thus providing even more security for our members.

And our diversification has been so successful, we have made a record pre-tax profit of £353 million.

Innovation and expansion.

Research has shown that people like to do business with us and want to do so on a broader basis. So in 1987 the Society increased the scope of its activities whilst applying the same principles that have made us so popular in our traditional markets.

The high interest Sterling Asset investment account, launched last year, has so far attracted over £5,000 million. And we opened many more Abbeylink machines, bringing the total to over 300, with access to 900 more machines through the Link network.

We have consolidated our commitment to the home buying market by the formation of the Cornerstone estate agency chain. To date, we have acquired over 130 offices across the country. We also established the subsidiary

Abbey National Homes Ltd and have started an exciting programme of new home construction.

On the broader financial front, we are now offering a range of life insurance products marketed by Abbey National and underwritten by Friends Provident. In addition, Abbey National Financial Services has been formed so that we can offer independent advice on a range of financial planning matters.

Our expansion hasn't stopped with this country. With the formation of Abbey National (Overseas) Limited, we are for the first time offering a service to British expatriates. And as part of our European strategy we have concentrated on the very promising Spanish housing market, both for Spanish Nationals and British home buyers.

Finally, March of this year saw the highly

successful launch of both our Current Account and our High Interest Cheque Account.

Future plans.

1987 was a year of great progress for Abbey National. So that we can continue to provide the service our members want, the board has recommended that the Society seeks plc status and we will put full proposals to our members in due course.

We are confident that our policy of continued innovation will make 1988 an even more successful year."



Checks to catch overloaded lorries

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

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In addition, it would make spot checks on 13,000 foreign lorries this year, an increase of nearly 50 per cent on 1987.

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The moves are in reply to a report by the Commons Select Committee on Transport, which said that more than £500 million a year and which caused damage to the road network.

The MPs said a quarter of foreign lorries weighed over 40 tons, and that 10 per cent of lorries served with prohibition notices, and called for compulsory weight checks at ports.

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profile: Dudley

r picks up for refuse

Local Administration Correspondent

In a borough where family names and personal reputations count for a great deal, this May a large turnover of councillors is expected.

Seven of the 13 seats being contested have sitting councillors in the hall.

Labour is proud of its record in office. "We've more into road maintenance and cleaning, spent more on school buildings, employed more staff in old people's homes," opened the Sunbridge Leisure Centre.

Dudley is getting a better bargain under Labour, Mr Hunt said.

Not the very best of council services is perhaps an indication of how the political and economic climates have been changing in the Midlands. Relative economic prosperity has taken the shine out of the jobs issue.

The recession in manufacturing and the high unemployment it brought earlier in the 1980s has not been forgotten — there is all-party support for the two areas in Dudley.

There is an increasing emphasis on the need for a more radical approach to the problems of the old iron and steel plants.

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Victims claim many crimes 'too trivial' for police priority

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

More than a quarter of crimes reported to the police are deemed by their victims not to merit even average police priority, according to a Home Office report published yesterday.

Most offences are considered to be relatively trivial by those who have suffered them, the report found. Surprisingly, 20 per cent of wounding offences were not regarded by their victims as being of high seriousness or deserving high priority by the police.

The report analyses replies to the 1984 British Crime Survey conducted by NOP Market Research on 11,000 households in England and Wales. Mrs Mary Tuck, head of the Home Office Research and Planning Unit, says in a foreword: "While reporting to the police is heavily influenced by the seriousness of the offence, by no means all offences regarded as serious are reported, nor all trivial ones kept out of police records."

Dr Ken Pease, of Manchester University, author of the report, says: "It is clear that reporting an offence to the police is by no means equivalent to a request for even average police priority to be given to it."

The report shows that the need to report stolen property for insurance purposes is the biggest reason why offences which would otherwise be regarded as unimportant are recorded by the police.

The most common reason for not reporting more serious offences which most would regard as deserving high priority is that their victims (38 per cent) think they are "too trivial". The next most frequent reason (21 per cent) is a belief that the "police could have done nothing". Others (13 per cent) feel that the police would not be interested.

Places hit by high-crime rates suffer more acutely than is generally realized. That is because the crime is of a more serious nature.

Offences against the person are regarded as serious by more people than are property crimes. However, frequent drunk driving is rated as more serious than burglary and social security fraud more serious than income tax fraud.

The findings suggest there has been a change in the social climate in the past 20 years with property offences now regarded as less serious than hitherto. There is a tendency for women to regard offences such as cannabis use, tax or social security fraud and drink-

ing while over the legal alcohol limit as more serious, particularly when there is no immediate victim.

People of all ages equally judged offences of sex and violence to be serious. However, older people thought other crimes, including victimless offences, to be more serious than did young people.

The report says: "Older people have been consistent in their beliefs throughout their adult life. Younger people hold a different set of values."

Prison is more often chosen as the proper response to serious personal offences rather than equally serious property offences. "Community service is, perhaps surprisingly, seen as the proper reaction to more serious property crime more often than any other sentence or option."

"No action" is seen to be the appropriate option in more than half of all personal crime judged trivial, but only a quarter of property crime of equal seriousness was declared trivial. The report says: "The same pattern is true for crimes which were rated as rather more serious, although still not of high seriousness."

Perhaps the pattern emerges because flesh and blood and car accidents do not.

Police patrols on the M5 in Devon and Cornwall are to be equipped with computers as part of a Home Office experiment to reduce bureaucracy.

Officers will use the electronic notebooks, about the size of an A4 notepad, to input information and to transmit records to bigger computers at police stations or headquarters. The experiment is part of a £30,000 scheme using computers for crime reports.

whether the criminal justice system can prevent re-offending.

The report says: "There is a commercial tightrope to be trodden: between adventurous and successful merchandising on the one hand and that which is too adventurous, leading to substantial losses from theft on the other."

Retailers simply do not know the true extent of their losses from crime, the report says. Various studies have suggested that at least 1.5 per cent and perhaps as many as 8 per cent of customers going into shops take something without paying.

Though not a large percentage, those figures mean that in a store dealing at any time, say, with 1,000 shoppers, between 15 and 80 of those are likely to be removing something without payment.

Lord Skelmersdale, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Security, said yesterday: "The trial provides a secure, portable medical record which ensures that practitioners have up-to-date information on their patients."

The trial will be a joint venture between the DHSS, Honeywell Bull, Abies Informatics, and the Department of General Practice at Exeter's Postgraduate Centre.

Exmouth and the Royal Devon and Exeter hospitals will be able to read the credit-card sized cards.

The "care cards", which will be launched in a pilot scheme in Exeter in October, will hold details of a patient's medical history and medicines being prescribed. The trial will be carried out with the patient list of one general practice, all patients aged over 65 and those under five in a second practice, and all diabetics in the Exmouth area. Patients, GPs, some pharmacists, a dentist and clinics at the

as the best way to reduce the risk of getting cancer, followed by going for regular checks and cervical smears.

Just under 1,000 people took part in the survey, conducted in 85 sampling points in England, Scotland and Wales.

"It would seem that although knowledge of cancer is increasing steadily, fears and negative attitudes remain fairly entrenched", the survey says.

Women are most likely to feel that way, while younger people and those in the higher socio-economic classes have less negative attitudes.

Lung cancer is seen as much more likely to kill than cancer of the breast or cervix, but 72 per cent of those surveyed believe that cancers generally are at least sometimes curable, while 88 per cent regard AIDS as a certain killer.

Giving up smoking is seen

Colourist 'should be upgraded'

£127,000 record for Peplow

The price level for S.J. Peplow made the big time yesterday when one of his still-life paintings soared three times over its estimate, to a world record of £127,000 for any colourist painter.

Showing a blue-draped table with peonies and fruit, it was bought by David Ker and Jonathan Clark, Chelsea art dealers.

"Peplow's pictures have the makings of top market pictures", Mr Clark said after the sale. "I am certain they will soon be upgraded into the Impressionist sales where they belong, rather than 'Modern British'."

The Sotheby's sale at Hopton House, West London, also included a record for a Francis Cadell whose impressionistic view of Venice dated 1910 sold anonymously for £44,000, against an estimate of between £15,000 and £20,000.

The previous records for both artists were at Christie's in 1986. Peplow's fetching £84,840 and Cadell's £32,000. Other high prices included

attributed to Francis Towne and Thomas Girtin. A folio of views along the Thames by Lady Farnborough fetched £2,420 (estimate £500 to £700).

Mallams of Oxfordshire enjoyed the attentions of French dealers yesterday, when it sold a quality Louis Philippe mahogany secretaire for three times its estimate, at £25,000.

Apart from having panels decorated with paintings after François Boucher, the secretaire was distinguished by the fact that it failed to sell last time it appeared for auction, at Christie's in 1895. It was bought yesterday by Philippe Delpeire, a dealer from Paris.

A bottle of Château Mouton Rothschild 1945 sold for £1,485, or twice its estimate at Sotheby's London yesterday, because of the attached message from Alfred and Hitchcock and his wife. "Only the finest for Laura & Maurice", it reads. "Happy ABC (then all the other letters of the alphabet except, mysteriously, the L). It is signed 'Alma & Hitch'."

English water colours were also selling for double their estimate at Sotheby's, London, yesterday, although prices remained modest. Top lot, at £2,640, was an album of miscellaneous water-colours and drawings of topographical subjects, including fragments

Songs of praise for an historic church



The choir of Great St Mary's, the university church of Cambridge, on its roof — with King's College Chapel behind — for the launch of a £175,000 appeal for a new organ. Both Richard III and Henry VII were substantial donors to a fifteenth century appeal to enlarge the church (Photograph: Graham Wood).

British breakthrough in testing food additives

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

British scientists have developed a method for analysing the potential side-effects of food additives, experimental drugs, pesticides and other synthetic chemicals.

The method will also instantly reveal whether a label accurately describes the contents of a food or drink product.

The technique, devised at Surrey University, will be made available commercially to the food, phar-

maceutical, veterinary and chemical industries through the Food and Veterinary Laboratory. The laboratory is a science-based company set up on the Surrey Research Park, next to the university.

One of them, Professor Dennis Parke, said there had been many failures of the present system to detect the drug or pesticide with potential carcinogenicity (cancer-causing properties) or toxicity. He said they included thalidomide, paracetamol, a heart treatment drug that caused eye

damage; benoxoprofen, the active substance in Opren, the anti-arthritis drug; and salazopyrin, a treatment for gastro-intestinal illnesses that had severe side-effects.

One problem is that toxic chemicals can be present in a food in such infinitesimal amounts that they cannot be identified before a person has consumed them for a long period.

Professor Parke said the new approach to safety testing can, sometimes within days, provide a detailed report on the likely carcinogenicity or

toxicity of trial chemicals. The analyses can be done without the use of experimental animals.

The methods pioneered by the Surrey scientists have combined their specialist knowledge of how innocuous substances can be converted into poisons in the body, the way different compounds trigger cancer, the design of sensitive instruments that detect agents in concentrations as low as one part in 1,000,000,000, and advances in computer graphics.

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we found you somewhere to stay, or helped you to catch a plane or train home? Again no problem, we'll pay for it.

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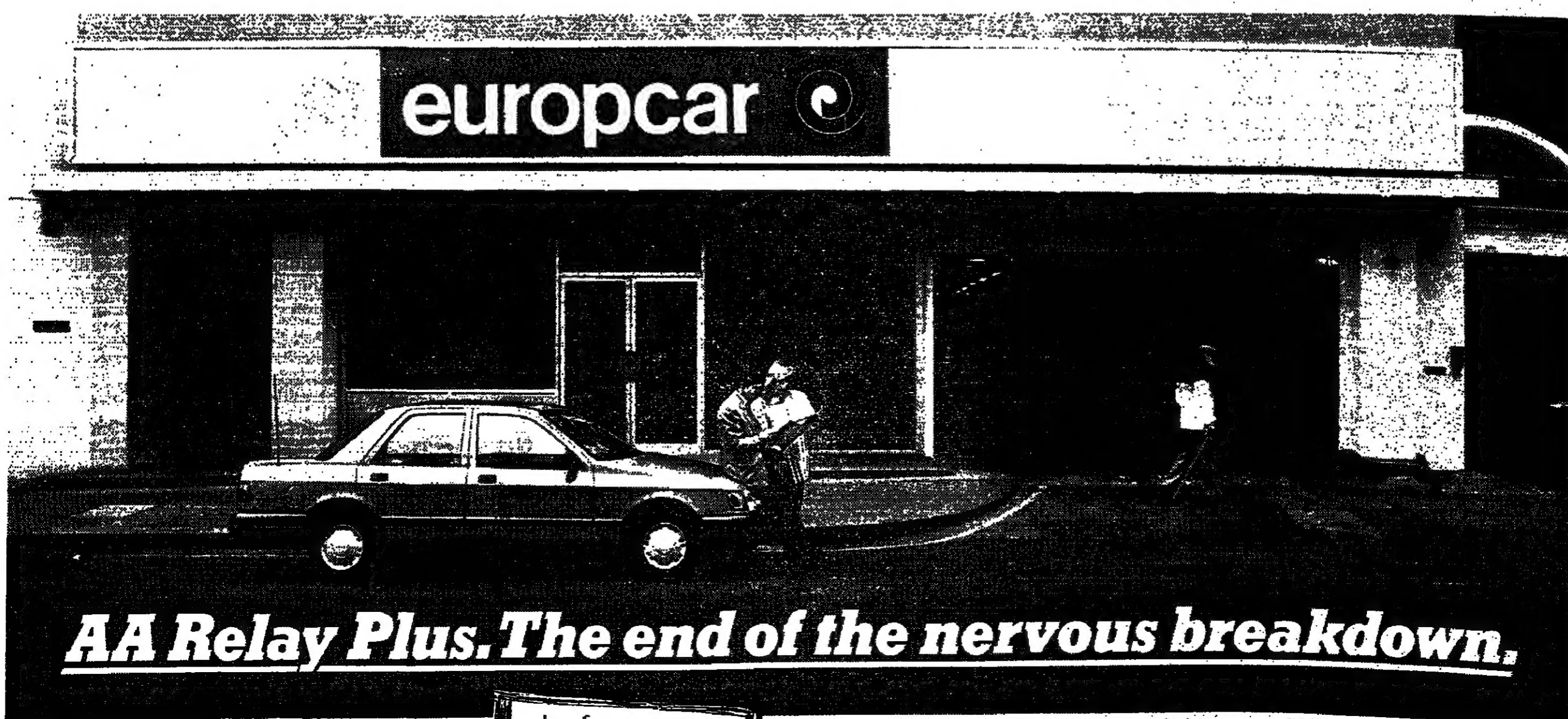
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WORLD ROUNDUP

US test case for healing doctrine

Boston — A grand jury here has decided to prosecute a Christian Scientist couple for the manslaughter of their son, aged two, because they relied on the church's doctrine of spiritual healing rather than medical treatment (Charles Bremner writes). The charges against Mr David and Mrs Ginger Twitchell have set the scene for a landmark legal battle between the responsibilities of the state and the constitutional right to observe religious convictions.

Nato warns Danes

Brussels — Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, warned his Danish counterpart here yesterday of the "grave implications" for Denmark and the Nato alliance if approval is given for a ban in its ports on ships carrying nuclear weapons in peacetime (Michael Evans writes).

Although sympathy was shown towards the Danish Defence Minister, Mr Bernd Johan Collet, many alliance ministers expressed anxiety over the problem. Mr Younger said he did not wish to interfere in Danish politics, but made it clear that Britain would never agree to any restriction imposed by Denmark on British warships.

Britain maintains a mobile force of up to 50,000 soldiers committed to the reinforcement of Denmark during a time of crisis.

Israelis' fatal errors

Jerusalem — Sixteen Israeli teenagers, one of whom was killed during a clash with Palestinians, had set off for a hike in the occupied West Bank without making proper preparations, according to an army report published yesterday (Ian Murray writes). The incident, at Beitir village, near Nablus, on April 6, resulted in the deaths of Tirza Porat, aged 15, one of the hikers, and two Arabs.

The report found that the girl was killed by a bullet from the M16 rifle carried by one of the two armed guards accompanying the hike. The group had "ignored common-sense precautions" and the guard who opened fire had been "over-hasty" in pulling the trigger.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources claimed that a 13-year-old Arab girl died of wounds she suffered on Tuesday when soldiers opened fire in Kafz Deek, near Tulkarm on the West Bank. The Army confirmed the death six hours later.

Royal ferry jolted

Melbourne — A ferry boat taking the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh on a pleasure cruise with 500 VIP guests was involved in a collision yesterday with a coastal patrol vessel (Christopher Morris writes).

The SS South Steyne, built in Scotland 50 years ago, was just pulling out of No 14 wharf at Melbourne Harbour for a champagne cruise down the Yarrow River when its stern scraped along the patrol vessel, pushing it against concrete pilings. On board, the Queen and Duke, who were mingling with their guests, felt a severe jolt and heard a loud scraping noise.

Bonn insurance cut

Bonn — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right Government yesterday approved proposals for drastic cost-cutting reforms in West German health insurance schemes that will save about \$4.5 billion a year (John England writes).

The proposals, bitterly opposed by the Social Democratic and Green opposition parties and the trades union federation, are aimed at dampening what the Government calls a "cost explosion" in the health insurance system.

West Germany has no government-run national health service. But health insurance is compulsory for all employed people, and 90 per cent of West Germans belong to semi-official, self-administered schemes. The self-employed and higher income earners are privately insured.

Tories win Manitoba

Ottawa — The left-wing New Democratic Party has been voted out of office in a Canadian provincial general election in Manitoba that brought the Conservatives back to power with a minority mandate (John Best writes).

The New Democrats managed to win only 12 seats in Tuesday's vote, against 25 for the Tories and 20 for the Liberals. The party standings at the dissolution of the 57-seat assembly were New Democrats 29, Conservatives 26, Liberals one, with one seat vacant.

Manitoba had the only socialist Government in Canada. The NDP has been in office in Manitoba continuously since 1969 except for one four-year period from 1977 when the Conservatives were in power.

Saudis bombed after Iran split

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

An explosion yesterday heavily damaged a Kuwait office of Saudi Arabia's national airline, injuring a guard.

It came a day after Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic relations with Tehran. There was no immediate evidence that the two incidents were connected, but pro-Iranian saboteurs in Kuwait have been held responsible for a string of bomb attacks.

Some form of riotous had been expected after Saudi Arabia's decision to break relations, which found a sympathetic reaction in Britain.

Most experts contacted by The Times saw it as the inevitable outcome of eight years of worsening relations.

They felt that part of Saudi Arabia's motive was the fear of violence among pilgrims attending the Haj (holy pilgrimage) at Mecca in July. The Saudi Government tried unsuccessfully to persuade Tehran to keep the numbers to 45,000 and to restrain pilgrims from using the festival for political purposes. But Tehran insisted that 150,000 would go, and implied that they would demonstrate against the Saudi Government.

Since the break, Saudi Arabia has said it will still allow 45,000 Iranians to attend. But many are likely to be Iranians.

Two senior British experts on Arab affairs emphasized that the Saudis had proved extremely cautious in the face of Iranian provocation. "If Britain had had to put up with what we have suffered, we would have broken relations years ago," one said.

The turning point in Saudi policy came after the Mecca riot on July 31 last year. Huge numbers of Iranians attempted to stage demonstrations and, according to the Saudis, many came armed.

The use of the holy festival for political purposes and the carrying of weapons was seen throughout the Islamic world, except Iran, as a serious abuse of the spirit of the Haj.

According to the Saudis, 402 people were killed, including 275 Iranians and 80 Saudi security men.

Iran then denounced Saudi Arabia as being unfit to serve as custodian of Islam's holiest shrines. Last August, mobs attacked the Saudi Embassy in Tehran and a diplomat either fell or was thrown from a window. He died in hospital.

Since then Iran has stepped up its war of words against Saudi Arabia. The Iranian reaction proved counter-productive in terms of Arab sympathy. Whatever the truth of how the riot started, Iranian pilgrims had a record of behaving provocatively for several years.

Last November, an Arab summit condemned Iran's behaviour at Mecca. In March news leaked out that Saudi Arabia had bought Chinese medium-range missiles capable of reaching Tehran. Last Sunday a Saudi-owned tanker, the Sea Trader, was ambushed by six Iranian gunboats in the southern Gulf. There has also been a spate of bombings in Saudi Arabia suspected, but not proved, to be the work of elements sympathetic to Iran.

Iranian missile attacks on Kuwait and Arab suspects of Iranian complicity in the Kuwait Airways hijacking also hardened the Saudi mood.

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The turning point in Saudi policy came after the Mecca riot on July 31 last year. Huge numbers of Iranians attempted to stage demonstrations and, according to the Saudis, many came armed.

The use of the holy festival for political purposes and the carrying of weapons was seen throughout the Islamic world, except Iran, as a serious abuse of the spirit of the Haj.

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Philadelphia — "For both the Rep. Democratic nomination and effectively the Pennsylvania race Tuesday, there are no doubt about the odds: no one there can be better than the incumbent Gov. Mike Doyle."

Vice-President Bush has been certain of an absence of delegates at his own convention. Michael Dukakis, not formally so, is unlikely to have committed delegates by the end of the early June. But he

So far both camps agree on the nature of the campaign. The issue is changed. Connecticut is a decisive dividing line. Until he had the support of the voters, enough for Mr. Bush to win, he was himself as President. He wanted helpmate, loyalty, that was the party loyalists. Republican primary. But he will be more distinctive. He shows that he is his. He is to appeal to electorate that will not be.

Before Super
March 8 he could
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the nomination.

Since Super Tuesday has been difficult for him to get the attention for any particular issue, he won so handily in those primaries. Republican race

It has been argued by the much noted Democratic barth New York last week in Pennsylvania hardly have known was a Republican

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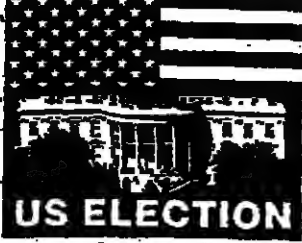
Army blast

Bush and Dukakis surge ahead

From Christopher Thomas
Philadelphia

Governor Michael Dukakis tightened his grip on the Democratic presidential nomination with a resounding victory over the Rev Jesse Jackson in the Pennsylvania primary, undercutting the Baptist preacher among white ethnic minorities, the poor and the unemployed.

Republican voters gave enough delegates to Vice-President George Bush to take him over the 1,139 level which



was needed to clinch the nomination.

Mr Jackson, who has fought non-stop from the outset, looked emotionally and physically exhausted yesterday. He pledged to stay in the race, but clearly his campaign has lost its lustre. A low turnout of black voters in Pennsylvania reflected a deepening despondency with his valiant but flagging effort.

In the popular vote he took 28 per cent against 67 per cent for Mr Dukakis. In separate balloting to select delegates for the national convention, he fared even worse, capturing only 15 out of 178 at stake.

The victory for Mr Dukakis,



Over the hurdle: Mr Bush addressing voters in Evansville, Indiana before his decisive win in the Pennsylvania primary.

his most decisive so far, will propel his drive in the Ohio and Indiana primaries next Tuesday, where he is assured of new triumphs. But he still adamantly refuses to claim the nomination.

He now has about 1,250 delegates, against some 850 for Mr Jackson — 2,081 are needed for nomination. He is moving ahead with such speed that he may soon see a real prospect of some backstage wheeling and dealing with Mr

Jackson and others to secure enough delegates for victory before the national convention in Atlanta on July 18.

But for now, Mr Jackson is saying only that the campaign will be decided on June 7 at the California and New Jersey primaries. California can be unpredictable for a Democratic frontrunner: for example, it rejected Mr Jimmy Carter in 1976 after he was all but nominated.

Mr Jackson carried Phila-

delphia in the popular vote by an unimpressive 54 per cent to 44 per cent for Mr Dukakis, and he lost Pittsburgh. Overall, he captured between 10 and 14 per cent of white votes.

Mr Dukakis swept the board among blue-collar whites and ethnic minorities that make up a sizeable part of Pennsylvania's population.

For Mr Bush, the victory was especially sweet. He won the Pennsylvania popular vote in 1980 but lost the delegates

to Mr Reagan and dropped out of the presidential race the next day. This time he took 79 per cent of the popular vote.

The rest went to Senator Bob Dole and Mr Pat Robertson, still technically in the race though not campaigning. The Vice-President has yet to fire up his campaign against Mr Dukakis, although aides are telling him he must do soon. Mr Bush will focus heavily on the Democrat's lack of foreign experience.

Clamour to oust Meese despite Reagan backing

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan again defiantly endorsed Mr Edwin Meese, his embattled Attorney General, saying he would ask him to leave the Administration "only if he had a complete change of character".

He showed flashes of irritation during a picture-taking session at questions about a report in *The Wall Street Journal* that several of the President's closest former advisers, including Mr Caspar Weinberger, the former Defence Secretary, were pursuing a campaign to oust Mr Meese.

Mr Reagan said he was "not aware" of the report, but quickly added that it was "totally inaccurate". He said he would not approve such a plan, said to involve Mrs Nancy Reagan.

Nevertheless the tide is running out for Mr Meese. Senior Republicans see him as a growing liability and a threat to Vice-President George Bush's presidential hopes.

Mr Weinberger and Mr Stuart Spencer, a long-standing Reagan campaign consultant, are said to be among those who are convinced that Mr Meese's legal difficulties are disrupting the Justice Department and tarring the entire Administration with the "sleaze factor".

Although the report by Mr James McKay, the special prosecutor, which is anticipated within a few weeks, is

not expected to seek Mr Meese's indictment, it is likely to be strongly critical of his ethical conduct.

Mr Bush also thinks Mr Meese should go, fearing that the Democrats will exploit the issue to his disadvantage. Hinting at the turmoil in the depleted Justice Department, he said recently that he would not tolerate any breaches of ethics or personal profiteering in a Bush administration.

Within the space of five days, the disarray in the department forced Mr Meese to abandon a trip to a London conference on terrorism; he and his wife defended themselves before a grand jury; he had a sharp confrontation with a Senate committee; and the two top aides who resigned in disgust went directly to President Reagan to argue that he was unfit for office.

Mr Meese is also losing the support of conservatives, whose cause he once championed. Many now complain that Mr Reagan's domestic policy council, which Mr Meese chairs, is failing to outline administration strategy on such pressing issues as day-care, health insurance, minimum wages and factory closures.

Congress is now ignoring the Justice Department. A House of Representatives panel approved a Bill, regulating plastic guns, without wait-

ing for Justice officials to testify; other administration Bills, such as one aimed at child pornography, have not moved forward because the department has not lobbied.

Mr Reagan still holds Mr Meese in affection, and is said to be haunted by the way he allowed his former Secretary of Labour, Mr Raymond Donovan, who was subsequently cleared of any wrongdoing, to be forced out under threat of indictment.

Opponents of Mr Meese are looking for help to Mrs Reagan, who has usually taken the decisive steps that have led to the dismissal of senior officials.

Mr Meese has accused the media of trying to hound him out of office, spiritedly defended himself in a talk with the President after Mr Arnold Burns, the former Deputy Attorney General, and Mr William Weld, who resigned on the same day, outlined why Mr Meese should quit.

Meanwhile, a grand jury heard testimony on Tuesday on the links between Mr Meese's wife, Ursula, and a family that owned a building leased to the Justice Department. The lease was renewed in 1985 for a much higher rent soon after a foundation, set up by the landlords, began paying the salary of Mrs Meese's post at the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Going over the great divide in Pennsylvania

Philadelphia — The contests for both the Republican and Democratic nominations have been effectively ended by the Pennsylvania primaries on Tuesday. There was hardly any doubt who the candidates would be after the New York primaries last week. Now there can be none.

Vice-President George Bush has been given the certainty of an absolute majority of delegates at the Republican convention. Governor Michael Dukakis's position is not formally so strong. He is unlikely to have enough committed delegates even by the end of the primaries in early June. But he has become unstoppable.

So far both candidates the nature of the campaign has changed. Pennsylvania marks a decisive dividing line.

Until he had made quite sure of the nomination it was enough for Mr Bush to present himself as President Reagan's devoted helpmate. It is his loyalty that has appealed to the party loyalists who vote in Republican primaries.

But he will have to cut a more distinctive figure, to show that he is his own man, if he is to appeal to the wider electorate that will be voting in November.

Before Super Tuesday on March 8 he could not afford to say anything out of line for fear of upsetting the party loyalists and thereby losing the nomination.

Since Super Tuesday it has been difficult for him to attract attention for anything he did say. He won so handsomely in those primaries that the Republican race became a foregone conclusion.

It has been overshadowed by the much more exciting Democratic battle. Both in New York last week and now in Pennsylvania one would hardly have known that there was a Republican primary at all.

Mr Bush stands to gain even more from Mr Dukakis's success in Pennsylvania than from his own. It would be dangerous for him simply to glide unopposed to the Republican convention in August.

His greatest asset is his experience. Yet that advantage will be steadily eroded if Mr Dukakis continues to dominate the headlines over the next three months as he has done in recent weeks.

The Democratic race so far has been ideal for him, not only because he has been winning but also because it has



Geoffrey Smith

been close enough to be interesting. The repetition of his name has been conferring a new authority on the unknown candidate.

So now that the remaining Democratic primaries will be more predictable Mr Bush has a new chance to make himself heard again.

For Mr Dukakis these primaries will become not so much a contest as an exercise in competitive collaboration. He must continue to win, but also to prepare the ground for co-operating later on acceptable terms with the Rev Jesse Jackson and his supporters.

Already both of them have adjusted their campaigning accordingly. The contest in Pennsylvania was much less abrasive than in New York.

For both Mr Bush and Mr Dukakis the new phase of the campaign should bring closer scrutiny of their policies. The question with Mr Bush is whether he can say enough to interest the voters without giving hostages to the future.

The greatest danger is his commitment not to raise taxes, which he repeated again in Pittsburgh this week. But if the budget deficit is to be cut significantly, higher taxes would almost certainly have to be part of a broader package.

Mr Dukakis does not go so far as Mr Bush to rule out a tax rise. But he indicated to me when I spoke to him in New York that he would wait to see if enough money could be raised by improved revenue collection, which would take all or most of his first year in office. The question with Mr Dukakis, apart from his inexperience in foreign policy, is whether he could find the money for his social programmes.

So will Mr Dukakis be too liberal for the present mood of the American voters? Will Mr Bush play it too safe?

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Saboteurs try to derail American troop train

Bonn — Unknown saboteurs laid five explosive charges in an attempt early yesterday to blow up an American military train travelling from Berlin to Frankfurt (John England writes). The blasts tore up the track, but failed to derail the train with 31 US soldiers aboard; only the driver was slightly hurt by flying glass. The attack, near Hedemünden in Lower Saxony, was the second on an American military train since last September.

French raid

Toulouse (AP) — Robbers disguised as policemen stole an estimated 15 million francs (£1.4 million) from strong-boxes at a Brinks depot here.

Army blast

Port of Spain (AFP) — Two soldiers and four firemen were killed when an army ammunition dump exploded on Trinidad as they were fighting a forest fire nearby.

Defence plan

Stockholm (Reuters) — Sweden plans to spend an extra £61.5 million on submarine defences and says it will adopt a shoot without warning policy against intruding submarines.

Fuel clash

Lagos (AP) — Police arrested 25 people in the western city of Ikorin during violent demonstrations against petrol price increases.

Mujahidin bomb mars Kabul festivities

By Edward Gorman

Mujahidin guerrillas demonstrated their contempt for celebrations being held in Kabul to mark the tenth anniversary of the Afghan communist, or Saur, revolution yesterday, by detonating a bomb in the centre of the city which killed four people and injured seven others.

The bomb was in a lorry parked by the Kabul River on the edge of the busy commercial district. Part of the lorry was blown into the river and two cars nearby were blown upside down by the force of the explosion. Witnesses said they saw at least three bodies being taken away in ambulances immediately after the blast. Government troops quickly sealed off the area and tanks were brought in to guard the site.

The bombing — the latest in a campaign of growing intensity by the guerrillas — is the first serious incident in the city during two days of celebrations to mark the revolution.

Kabul is normally reluctant to disclose details of Mujahidin attacks, but with a large contingent of Western journalists in the city there was little they could do to conceal the extent of the damage. By lunchtime Tass had confirmed the bombing and put the casualties at four dead and seven injured.

Communist party officials told Western correspondents that they believed the attack was the work of Mujahidin

guerrillas, but the timing and the placing of the bomb had been designed to inflict few casualties — the implication being that a political or psychological point was the main intent.

Meanwhile leaders of the Mujahidin held a series of seven rallies near Peshawar to condemn the anniversary and to reaffirm their commitment to continue fighting regardless of the recent peace accords in Geneva and the imminent Soviet withdrawal.

Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the fundamentalist Jamiat-i Islami faction, told his supporters that the communists had turned Afghanistan into a "slaughterhouse". He said that the war would continue until President Najibullah was overthrown.

"We should have no prejudice," he said. "At the moment we should be united because our people are armed against the Government and there will be much bloodshed." Another leader denounced the revolution, which he said had brought a decade of "tears, pain, fire and blood".

In a separate development, the US Embassy in Kabul is halving its diplomatic staff after intelligence reports that the mission has been chosen as a target by Iranian squads sent into Afghanistan in retaliation for US attacks on Iranian targets in the Gulf.

The 12-man mission is

being reduced to six, with tighter security being imposed. Some of the remaining diplomats will now sleep in the embassy. The United States maintains an embassy in Kabul but does not recognize President Najibullah's regime and has no official contact with it.

● DELHI: About 300 Afghan refugees demonstrated here yesterday to urge India not to force them to return to their homeland. Many of them were detained by police after they tried to break through barricades outside the parliament building (AP reports).

"We will not return while the puppet communist regime is in power in Kabul," said Mr Ali Khan, chief representative of the Hezb-i Islami in India. He said that the refugees were unwilling to return home because they feared persecution.

The organization is one of the various Afghan groups opposed to the Soviet-backed Government in Afghanistan and the demonstration was also organized to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the communist takeover.

The refugees chanted "Down, down Russia," as they marched to a rally near the Parliament. A three-year-old Afghan in a pushchair was among the demonstrators. He held a green Islamic flag in his left hand and was eating popcorn.

The demonstrators set fire to a Soviet flag.



A woman comforting a friend injured by flying glass when a bomb planted in a truck by the Mujahidin exploded in central Kabul yesterday. Four people were killed and seven hurt.

Threat of more violence clouds Sri Lanka poll

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

The dilemma facing the 2.8 million voters in four provinces who will today elect members of Sri Lanka's first provincial councils is not a question of who to vote for, but whether to vote.

The elections, the first important poll since a referendum in 1982, are being boycotted by the main opposition party, Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party, while the extremist Sinhalese group, the proscribed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front) is expected to disrupt the polls.

Voting for a total of 163 seats on councils in the North-Central, North-Western, Sabaragamuwa and Uva Provinces will be held for nine hours from 7am.

All the candidates have been provided with guns for their protection, and there have been a number of attempts to kill candidates of the ruling United National Party and of the United Socialist Alliance.

The Freedom Party decided to boycott the polls because it said the country needed a general election. The Socialist Alliance, however, said that a good performance in the provincial council polls will strengthen the case for a general election.

A member of the Socialist Alliance, Dr Colvin de Silva, leader of the Trotskyist Lanka Sama Samaja Party, said: "If you want to fight the Government you don't fight it only on the grounds that you choose. You fight it on any ground you have the opportunity to fight."

The councils, part of last year's peace accord between Sri Lanka and India, will pave the way for devolution, with provinces being given powers akin to those of an Indian state, including the right to have a local police force.

Under the accord, Sri Lanka agreed to create one provincial council for the Northern and Eastern Provinces and to hold elections by December 1987, with the merger to be tested a year later by a referendum to determine whether it should become a permanent. But more than 50,000 Indian troops are still trying to disarm Tamil guerrillas in the provinces and immediate elections seem a remote possibility.

Elections to three more provincial councils, including the Southern Province, will be held on June 2.

The threat of violence by the People's Liberation Front is the unknown factor. The front is believed to be responsible for 217 murders in the past 10 months, with many victims supporting United National Party.

Last Friday, the group raided the Sri Lankan Air Force base at Katunayake and escaped with 30 automatic rifles, a machine gun and 1,200 rounds of ammunition. Security sources believe the guns may be used to disrupt the polls, and each of the 2,772 polling booths will be manned by at least five armed soldiers or policemen.

Due to fear, intimidation and lack of interest because the main opposition party is not participating, the turnout is expected to be low. Because the voting procedure is complex many spoilt votes are expected.

The United National Party is taking the polls seriously and some Cabinet ministers and MPs have resigned to contest the elections. Other than the Socialist Alliance, the only other party contesting the election is the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, a new party which wants to woo the island's minority Muslim community.

The United National Party is expected to win the election and if the Socialist Alliance is to make any impact it will have to attract the anti-government vote.

But as one shopkeeper in Polonnaruwa, about 150 miles from Colombo, said: "We are living like the tongue surrounded by 32 teeth. We have to avoid being bitten from all sides."

Many people believe it is better to give the Government a mandate to enable easier access to funds for the development of the provinces than to elect those opposed to a strong government.



Mrs Bandaranaike: Leading calls for a general election.

Letter from Asunción

Chugging on the line to nowhere

Every day, just after noon, an ancient steam train clanks slowly out of the central railway station in the Paraguayan capital, Asunción, bound for the villages around Lake Ypacarai 25 miles to the east.

It is the only daily service on the line, although there is a twice-weekly overnight train to the border port of Encarnación, which lies 230 miles away on the Alto Paraná river at the Argentine frontier.

The British-built locomotive hauling the three-coach "local" to the lake — a 90-minute journey which costs only 8p — is a railway dinosaur: the engines still run by wood-burning.

As it clatters and shakes through the sub-tropical countryside on its journey to the middle of nowhere, the train serves as a metaphor for Paraguay's creaking political system, which is also heading nowhere slowly, oblivious of progress in the outside world.

For almost alone among its South American neighbours — Chile being the obvious exception — Paraguay has ignored the steady sweep of democracy which in the past 10 years has seen the generals retreating to their barracks in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador. Since 1954, Paraguay has become increasingly a one-man show, General Alfredo Stroessner at centre-stage.

The longest-serving head of state in the world after Kim Il Sung of North Korea, President Stroessner has consolidated his power over the years through a mixture of political astuteness and ruthless suppression of his political opponents that has frequently drawn the fire of human rights organizations such as Amnesty International. Given his extreme right-wing ideology and apparently paranoid fear of communism, it is ironic that the general has enveloped himself in a personality cult more reminiscent of Eastern bloc leaders such as President Ceausescu of Romania.

Travellers arriving at Presidente General Stroessner international airport, 10 miles out of Asunción, are greeted by three portraits of the general before they even pass

through immigration; on the road into town there is a red neon sign flashing STROESSNER 1988-93, celebrating (if that is the word) his 90 per cent success in February's dubious elections — in which he gained another five years of absolute power; posters throughout the capital proclaim the general "Author of Order and Wellbeing", "The National Voice", and the creator of "Peace, Order, Progress". And when the brain-washed traveller leaves, as likely as not he will cross the Brazilian border at Ciudad Presidente Stroessner.

It is true that the 74-year-old president has created stability of a kind, but the price has been high. Paraguay, landlocked and dominated by its giant neighbours, Brazil and Argentina, ever since its independence from Spain in 1811, is a parish among nations for its human rights record. Its economy relies almost as heavily on "transit trade" — commonly known as smuggling — as it does on the more traditional sectors such as agriculture.

Supporters of the President, and especially the militant faction of the Colorado Party in whom he has recently consolidated his power base to add to the real power invested in the armed forces, say that Paraguay's human rights record has improved since the widespread torture in the early days of Stroessner rule. But opponents say it has deteriorated again since last April's lifting of the state of siege in force since 1954.

The pro-Stroessner lobby also claims that the economy is being transformed by the hydro-electric power from the Itaipu Dam which since 1986 has enabled Paraguay to be a net exporter of electricity. And another huge hydro-electric scheme, this time in conjunction with Argentina, is under way at Yacretá, and is due for completion in 1992. The general is also credited with boosting primary education.

But these few pluses cannot disguise the fact that Paraguay under General Stroessner is living in the past with no clear vision of the future. Asunción shows few signs of moving faster than the 12.15 train.

Tim Anstis

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Labour laughter greets Moore's concessions

The Government's concessions to the storm of criticism over its new social security regulations were greeted with laughter by the Opposition and an angry intervention by a Conservative MP.

Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, told MPs that:

- The capital limit on housing benefit would be raised from £5,000 to £8,000;
- There would be transitional help, organized from a new central unit of the DSS, and backdated to April 1, to help claimants whose housing benefit had been sharply reduced; and
- Claimants would have six months, or longer in exceptional circumstances, to realize the value of property they leave for care homes.

He said that the changes would add £100 million to the social security budget.

Mr Andrew Bowden (Brighton, Kempdown, C) interrupted to say that he was deeply disturbed if he understood correctly that, although Mr Moore was increasing the basic capital figure to £8,000, he was making no difference to the basic tariff. It would still mean pensioners losing more than £8 a week.

Mr Moore later said that nobody in the "target groups" would lose more than £2.50 a week.

He was speaking in a debate opened by Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health and social security, who called for a change so that no one with less than £10,000 in capital assets would lose housing benefit.

Mr Cook said that the Government had only themselves to blame if they had now to beat an ignominious retreat.

Mr Cook moved a motion calling on the Government to amend the regulations so that no one with less than £10,000 in capital assets lost housing benefit and to relax the taper by which housing benefit was reduced for claimants with any income above the poverty line.

He said that, when the House first debated the changes in housing benefit three years ago, MPs had repeatedly been told that they represented the most fundamental change in the welfare state for 40 years and must be designed to stand the test of the next 40 years.

"Far from standing the test of the next 40 years, the changes in housing benefit have not survived the test of the first few weeks. Already we have seen a series of frenetic meetings between ministers in order to get together a package of emergency sticking plaster to put over the cuts."

"Why? Because the system which they introduced after a fundamental and profound review has proved harsh in its

BENEFITS

social consequences and embarrassing in its political consequences."

The air was thick with the grinding of alibis. All of a sudden no one wanted it to be thought that they had thought up the new rules. But from the moment this issue was first debated, Labour had vigorously opposed the changes.

"You cannot, without hardship, force up rents and rates and then simultaneously cut subsidies for housing costs," Every local authority association had warned the Government that its cut in housing benefit would be impractical and indefensible.

"They have marched on with this proposal in defiance of criticism from all informed groups and representative organizations. They have only themselves to blame if they are now obliged to beat an ignominious retreat."

Either the Government knew that these changes would cause the degree of hardship MPs had witnessed in their surgeries, in

which case it was cruel to have persevered with them and dishonest to have concealed it from their backbenchers, or they did not know, in which case somebody along the line had been guilty of incompetence on an heroic scale.

"I believe it is wholly unjust and unreasonable to say to people with modest savings of £3,000 to £5,000 that they should be treated as if they were receiving interest of 20 per cent per annum."

All the evidence coming in was that the proposals had resulted in financial cuts far in excess of the Government's estimates.

Data had been provided by local authorities that had completed the transfer of claimants

to the new system and that knew how their expenditure under the new scheme compared with expenditure under the old scheme.

"The drop is dramatic. The Government repeatedly told us that the savings, as it liked to express it, would come to £650 million this year had the previous system continued, that is an 11 per cent cut."

"The experience of every local authority I have spoken to is that they are experiencing cuts well in excess of that figure."

"The most severely affected is my own local authority of West Lothian where expenditure is down 25 per cent on last year, 30 per cent this year. Almost three times the Government's estimate."

Those cuts contrasted with the bland assurance that had been given to the House. It was evident that 8.8 per cent of claimants would lose £5 a week.

The figures of local authority officers working in the real world with real tenants, showed that more than 21 per cent would be losing more than £5 a week and a huge 11 per cent would be losing £12 a week.

A director of finance had already received three suicide threats from tenants in the past two weeks.

Far from providing an incentive to work, the rules made it almost impossible for some people to reconcile family commitment with their work.

The unexpected ferocity of the cuts had, the Government now admitted, produced anomalies.

"There are 5½ million anomalies out there who have just seen their housing benefit cut."

Ministers had accused the Opposition of scoring the country to find hard cases. There was no need: they tumbled out of the mail boxes, political surgeries were full of them and the telephone calls poured in.

Many had been shocked by the loss of housing benefit.

Their reaction came in three stages: disbelief that the figures could be correct; despair at how they were to make ends meet; and anger that they were required to make such sacrifices.

That anger flared most fiercely when they compared their loss with the Budget where there had been no sacrifice for those who were rich beyond the dreams of everyone on housing benefit.

The change in the savings rule would be very welcome to those affected by it, but would help only 150,000 claimants when, by the Government's own admission, there were 5.5 million people who were losing because of the new system; the vast majority of them had no capital to their names.

If these people were to be helped, they must also tackle the cruel taper which provided such

a savage clawback of benefit.

Most of these people were in Conservative constituencies. Every Conservative MP had, on average, 7,500 losers in his constituency. That figure exceeded the majorities of 115 of them (Labour laughter).

It might be politically embarrassing for Conservative MPs to vote for the Opposition motion, but nothing like as politically embarrassing as it would be for them in their constituencies if they voted against it.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister had said that the major structure of the housing benefit system would remain substantially the same.

Tonight, the House must vote to take that new structure apart and to rebuild it (Labour cheers).

Mr Moore said that the new benefits system was a simpler one, which people could understand.

It had given more help to most of the disabled and most families with children and, in terms of fairness, it was a big improvement in many ways in terms of incentives.

Under the old Family Income Supplement, a family could be better off on £75 a week than on £150. "The perverse incentives of the old system have gone."

There was a consensus throughout the country that housing benefit was in need of structural reform. The old system had had to be reformed because it was hideously complicated and indefensibly unfair.

"This Government was not prepared to ignore the problem. Its reforms of 1983 and 1986 have got the structure right. What this means is that people in work and out of work will receive the same level of help."

Mr Moore said that, in the past few weeks, he had been listening to the points made by Conservative MPs.

"The issue which has been most often mentioned in public discussion of the new housing benefit scheme is the capital rule."

"None of us wishes to discourage people from saving. Yet it is clearly wrong that the taxpayer should be expected to pay the rents and rates of people who have some capital and could be expected to draw on it."

"The question is all about what level that should be before they turn to their fellow citizens."

"I recognize, in particular, that the £5,000 limit has been the cause of concern. I am responding to those concerns today by increasing this limit to £8,000."

The increase in the disregard to £8,000 would bring considerable extra help to a further 100,000 people. The Government would quickly consult local authorities and introduce regulations to effect the change as soon as possible. It would cost £30 million.



Lord Wilson of Rievaulx (left), the former Prime Minister, and his wife with Mr Enoch Powell and Mrs Powell at the exhibition in London of oil paintings by Lord Paget of Northampton

Free vote 'would kill community charge'

If a free vote were allowed in the Commons on the community charge it would be dead and buried, Mr Donald Dewar, Chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, said during question time in the Commons.

The issue was raised by Mr James Wray (Glasgow Provan, Lab) who was told by Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State for Scotland, that those registering for purposes of the charge would be required to add details of their dates of birth.

Mr Wray said that that was a scandalous infringement of privacy. What guarantee of confidentiality was there in this system thought up by the Secretary of State for Scotland?

Mr Lang said that there was nothing extraordinary in the inclusion of dates of birth. It happened to everyone soon after they were born. Access to the information was already closely restricted by the Act.

Sir Hector Monro (Dumfries, C) said that local income tax, as advocated by the SLD, the SNP and many socialists, would require far more individual detail than was required by the community charge.

Mr Lang said that that was right. It might not require the

SCOTLAND

birth date, but it would require reference numbers and be more complex in detail.

Sir Russell Johnston (Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber, SLD) said that the poll tax forms provided an opportunity for appeal against designation of the responsible person. Would the minister avail himself of the opportunity (laughter)?

● **Local income tax, which is preferred by other parties, would require far more details about individuals**

Mr Lang agreed that the form allowed such an opportunity and that the concept of responsible person had been introduced by the Act. It might seem strange to the Opposition whose benches were peopled by irresponsible persons.

Mr David Harris (St Ives, C) said that the Mates amendment would also have required that a great deal of confidential

information should be made available to local councils.

Mr Lang said that that was right. Registration officers in England and Wales would be empowered to seek the information they required, including data of birth.

Mr Dewar asked whether the inquiry form being sent out by registration officers mentioned the designation of the responsible person. Did the right of appeal arise at this stage? Was it necessary to include details about date of birth? Was not tagging every adult with a logarithm an intrusive arrangement and an invasion of privacy?

Was it not time that Scottish Office ministers followed the example of their backbench colleagues in their opposition to the proposal? The public was against the whole scheme and it should now be abandoned.

Mr Lang said that designation did not begin with the issue of the canvass form. That was to enable registration officers to designate the responsible person.

The inclusion of dates of birth had been done at the request of local authority practitioners in Scotland.

Settle line £1½m offer considered

The Government is considering a conditional offer by local authorities in the North-west of £500,000 towards the cost of restoring the Ribbleshead Viaduct in Cumbria, which carries the Settle to Carlisle railway line.

Mr David Mitchell, Minister of State for Transport, said in a written reply.

The conditions are that British Rail continues to operate the line; the line's future is guaranteed for 20 years; the contribution is "one off"; and the revenue support contributions already agreed for the next two years will not be extended beyond that period.

Watching too closely

More than 50,000 neighbourhood watch schemes were now operating, twice as many as 12 months ago, Earl Ferrers, Minister of State, Home Office, told peers during questions.

Lord Mollay (Lab) disclosed, however, that he had been burgled four times since he joined such a scheme. On the last occasion, last Thursday, the police officer suggested that maybe there were too many watch-scheme stickers on his window.

New leaflets

A new set of translations of the social security leaflet, *Which Benefit?* is to be produced later this year in Urdu, Hindi, Gujarati, Bengali, Punjabi, Chinese and Turkish, Mr Michael Portillo, Under Secretary of State, Social Security, said in a Commons written reply.

Farm control

All manufacturers of medicated feedstuffs for livestock will be required to register and will have to agree to abide by a code of practice, Mr Donald Thompson, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, said in a Commons written reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Northern Ireland; Prime Minister. Copy-right, Designs and Patents Bill, second reading. Motion on summer time order.

Lords (3): Housing (Scotland) Bill, committee, third day.

Immunity for INF inspectors

An order giving Soviet inspectors diplomatic privileges and immunities in Britain while carrying out verification under the terms of the INF treaty was passed without a vote late on Tuesday.

It was moved by Mr David Mellor, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who said that, according to all the indications, the United States Senate would vote overwhelmingly in favour of the treaty within the next few weeks.

The US and the Soviet Union would exchange instruments of ratification during President Reagan's visit to Moscow at the end of May.

● The boundary fence at the Ministry of Defence Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston is to be improved, Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, said in a written reply.

Scots pupils cost £424 a year more

EDUCATION

It costs £424 more a year to educate a secondary school pupil in Scotland than it does in England, Mr Michael Forsyth, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, said during questions.

Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing North, C) said that the whingeing Labour Party in Scotland should tell the public the facts.

"Scots cannot be basically a nation of slow learners or of less fundamental intelligence than the English, Welsh or Irish; therefore, why are they having so much more spent per pupil?"

Mr Forsyth: It is difficult to be precise about the reasons for that.

However, he added, among the reasons might be that in Scotland we have a larger number of teachers per pupil, we have higher secondary teacher salaries and we have had less success than in England in reducing surplus places.

But the most important factor was that the rates burden on Scottish schools was much higher than those in England, accounting for 25.8 per cent of non-teaching costs.

Dr Lewis Moosle (Kirkcaldy, Lab): The main reason for the higher quality of education in Scotland is that none of the regional authorities responsible for education are run by the Conservative Party.

Mr Forsyth: I am delighted to have his confirmation that the education authorities are well funded under this Government and are provided with more staff than in the case elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

Spending on education in Scotland this year is due to rise by 9 per cent, a better performance than any under the former Labour Government.

Labour 'a party of dinosaurs'

The following report of the second reading debate in the Commons on the Finance (No 2) Bill appeared in later editions yesterday.

The Labour Party were castigated as dinosaurs and economic Luddites by Mr John Major, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, when he moved the second reading.

He said that in the 1960s Britain had praised and envied the German economic miracle, but now the position had been reversed.

This, the Government's twelfth Finance Bill, incorporated the proposals set out in the Budget, and continued the Government's strategy of tax reform and tax reduction within a framework of sound public finance.

That went with firm control of public spending and progressive reductions in public borrowing, which had brought the nation a balanced budget.

"This strategy has transformed the economy. The extent of the change both in performance and confidence is remarkable."

That transformation had occurred because of policies that the Government had followed and continued to follow in the Finance Bill. Each and every one had been consistently opposed by the Opposition.

"Later today they will vote

against tax reductions, fair treatment for married couples and a raft of measures designed further to improve our economic prospects. Let no one believe that economic Luddites no longer exist. They sit opposite us."

The evidence since the Budget confirmed that Britain's economic success was continuing.

"This Budget gives a further boost to businesses already here and will make the UK yet more attractive to businesses still thinking of coming here."

"The message is crucially and critically clear. This Budget provides a challenge which British businessmen are ready to grasp."

The income-tax changes were the centrepiece of the Bill. They created in Britain the lowest rate of basic income tax since the Second World War.

As taxes had been cut, the economy had continued to improve. Despite the top rate cuts and the abolition of the investment income surcharge, the top 5 per cent of taxpayers paid a third more in income tax in 1987-88 than when the Government took office.

Perhaps the single most important innovation in the Budget had been the measures to introduce independent taxation for married women. The system proposed would give all married women full independence and

privacy and would do so sooner than the alternatives canvassed.

About 160,000 elderly couples — nearly 15 per cent of the total — would be taken out of tax by the independent taxation of elderly married women who received pensions on the basis of their husband's contributions.

The extension of the Business Expansion Scheme to investment in companies specializing in letting residential property on new-style assured-tenancy terms would give a kick-start to the private rented sector and help to boost job mobility and job creation.

Mr Brown: Government committed to inequality

Mr Gordon Brown, an Opposition spokesman on economic affairs, said that Mr Major's description of an economic miracle included two and a half million people unemployed and 18 million people living on low incomes.

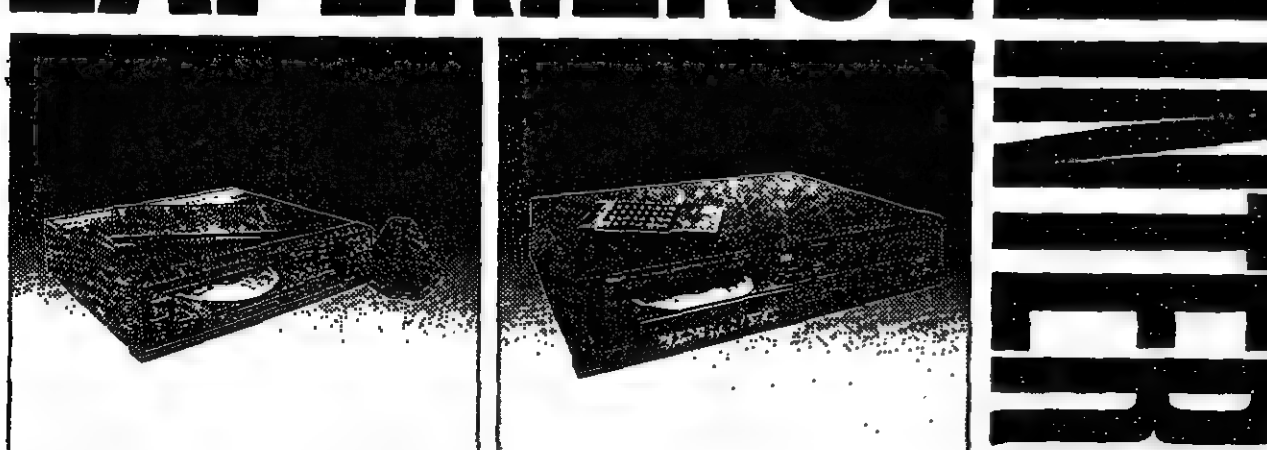
He had gone out of his way to avoid mentioning the central fact that, taking together the top-rate tax reductions and the other changes implemented by Conservative chancellors since 1979, the top 1 per cent had received more than the rest of the people of Britain put together. A total of £2,100 million was being given away this year to those previously on the top rate of taxation.

"The fundamental feature of this Finance Bill is the growing gap between rich and poor that will result from the tax changes. It is this commitment to widening inequality, even at the cost of increasing poverty, that infuses every measure."

The real beneficiaries of the tax cuts were those at the very top.

The Bill was read a second time by 251 votes to 201 — Government majority, 50.

EXPERIENCE

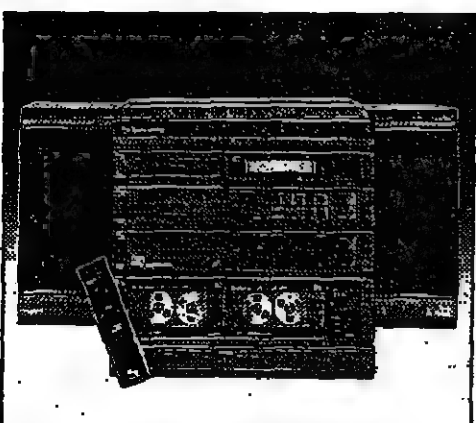


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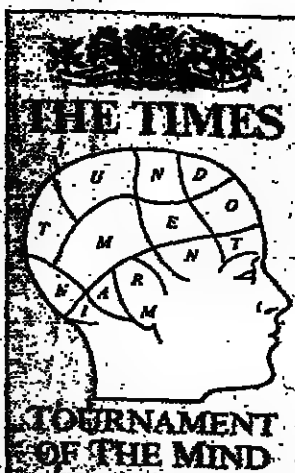
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SPECTRUM

مكتبة الأهل



Mind of the Year

● There were 225 questions — and tournament winner Malcolm Girling got 224 right to become *The Times* Mind of the Year

Malcolm Girling was in many ways uniquely well placed to become the first winner of the individual section of *The Times* Tournament of the Mind. Not only is he by training a librarian, accountant and computer programmer; he is also a mathematician.

That last qualification, though unsought, enabled him to spend up to 15 hours a day during the final stage, many of them at the very library, Cambridge Central, where he worked for six months last year on a Manpower Services Commission secondment.

As soon as he heard the news of his triumph over 123 other finalists from a starting field of 30,000, he said: "I'm less glad about beating the other competitors than I am

about beating the man who set the questions. That was what gave me the real pleasure."

The questions were set by Mensa, and he was beaten by only one throughout the whole tournament — a question involving a row of letters in apparently random sequence but in fact denoting a string of Canadian prime ministers. It was an absolute stinker. "I have to admit that I was barking up the wrong tree with that one," says Girling, aged 37. "I'll tell you exactly how wrong I was. I went down to the Blind Society, for whom I do some voluntary work, and showed them the question, which started with three Ms. Someone suggested they stood for manners maketh man, which is the motto of both

Winchester School and New College, Oxford. I was nowhere near the answer."

Like his rivals, he was racking his brains right up to the eve of the tournament deadline — so much so that he finally took his entry by train to the Mensa headquarters in Wolverhampton, arriving with just over an hour to spare.

Part of his £5,000 prize money will probably go towards the sophisticated plant — a Leica new computer — with which he will market his bid to hang on to the title next year. "There's no rule against the winner entering again, is there?"

● Tomorrow: the schools' winner — and the answers



Malcolm Girling, and the books which took him to the top

I.N.G.E.N.U.I.T.Y.

Starting next week in *The Times* INGENUITY, a new competition to test your mental ability — with prizes worth more than £13,000. For a taste, try this sample question (answer tomorrow).

An apirist who was helped to the top by a man who died in 1886.

INDIVIDUAL FINALS — THE ANSWERS

DAY 1

Puzzles: 1 15. 2 SMEW and MEWS (alternatives were given but in the opinion of the judges the direct relationship between "mews" and "horses" was not repeated in these). 3 Minims, as in apothecaries' fluid measures. 4 16 revolutions. General knowledge: 1 St Jean de Brébeuf. 2 Eleatics. 3 Helium. 4 Om. 5 Ivan III or Great.

DAY 2

1 After eight months at 0800hrs on September 1st 1900. The two planets are 30° and 120°. 2 The odd one out is chid; the others when unscrambled read Balaton, Leopold and Chapala, all of which are lakes. The odd one out is the chid, which is a fish. 3 Multiply, minus and multiply. 4 540 squares. Remember that there are squares on a skew. General knowledge: 1 Izanagi and Izanami. 2 László Moholy-Nagy. 3 Monazite or Bastnaesite. 4 Syndicalism. 5 Johann Ludwig Trapp.

DAY 3

1 226. 2 Pyre. 3 The answer is 69 — 9 divided by 1 times 1 to give you 9. On the other side 6 times 6 divided by 6 to give you 6. 4 4,215 miles away; vowels are worth 2,354 miles each and consonants are worth 654 miles each; the totals are then added (any alternatives which could be proved were accepted). General knowledge: 1 Friarbird. 2 Istay. 3 Lipids. 4 Claude Henri de Rouvroy, Comte de Saint-Simon. 5 Sir Stanley Matthews.

DAY 4

1 2. 2 The words read Scorzonera, Tripudial, Saltarello and Stathsepy; scorzonera is the odd one out because it is a vegetable; the rest are dances. 3 £8.75; he received £79.08, spent £8.76 and thus £70.32 divided by 8 gives us £8.79. 4 11,025 rectangles. General knowledge: 1 Nauru. 2 Rudolf Virchow. 3 Pugwash conferences. 4 *The End of Eternity*. 5 *The Wrekin*.

DAY 5

1 The comet passes planet A after 1,260 years and passes planet B after 714 years. 2 The missing words are RAINING and INGRAIN. (If alternatives were thought acceptable to the judges they were credited). 3 One half. 4 The answer is S. The letters are the first letters of a pack of cards going downwards, assuming that Ace is high. General knowledge: 1 None — no emperors. Aurelian conquered it in third century AD. 2 Li Po, Li Po or Li Tai Po. 3 Cimbrian. 4 Linear-A. 5 Ambrose Paré.

DAY 6

1 Four times each. 2 The words when unscrambled are SERVAL, OCELOT, BAYARD and KELPIE, all animals of the real world or legend (if alternatives were thought acceptable to the judges they were credited). 3 4 minutes and 22 seconds past one in the afternoon; the weeks are irrelevant (other readings of the puzzle which could give rise to other answers were fully taken into account). 4 The initials of the surnames of Canadian Prime Ministers from 1867 to 1920: Macdonald, Mackenzie, Macdonald, Abbott, Thompson, Bowell, Trupper, Laurier, Borden. General knowledge: 1 David Hemschell. 2 Henry de Montherlant. 3 Sierra Maestra. 4 The lac insect. 5 Huia.

From wild side to Wall Street

Michael Douglas seems a reasonable, sensible actor. And one of the more sensible things about him is his public attitude to his father. It may well be unfair to keep comparing and contrasting the two, but it is also inevitable. Kirk Douglas stands alongside Burt Lancaster and Robert Mitchum as one of the three great Hollywood male stars of his generation and Michael Douglas, who has half his father's genes and probably imbibed actor's timing with his mother's milk, is well on his way to becoming the same thing.

In spite of the obvious differences between the two men, Douglas has nothing but kind things to say about Douglas pere. Apparently the father attended all of his son's college theatrical performances and passed on good advice. He is also on record as being extremely amused by his four sons doing an in-unison impersonation of him. If Michael Douglas still lacks Kirk Douglas's manic edge and scheming relish, that may be because he didn't have the advantage of his father's impoverished upbringing. But, as his character of Gordon Gekko in *Wall Street* (opening in London this week) suggests, the potential is there.

Michael Douglas's parents divorced when he was six, and he grew up in the eastern United States with his mother, Diana, who acted in the theatre. Summer vacations were spent in Hollywood, where his father would introduce him around the studios and arrange small jobs for him back-stage. A damaged vertebra, for which he wore a back-brace, kept him from being drafted for the Vietnam war, although he is on record as saying that he would not have fought anyway, an attitude to which his father was surprisingly lenient.

It was during this period that he had his hippie phase. It is clearly an era of his life of which he is still fond, often recalling his commune existence up in the mountains, with weekly Dionysiac celebrations and kite-flying competitions. "There was an exposure to different kinds of people without any sense of fear," he has said. There are clearly residual atti-

THE TIMES PROFILE MICHAEL DOUGLAS

tudes from this period in his make-up; in interviews (for which, unlike most Hollywood stars, he is often available) he is always open, honest and diplomatic. And around the industry he has a reputation as Mr Nice Guy, which is unusual if only for the fact that he has had a parallel career as a film producer, a role not calculated to endear people to you.

There can be no question of an easy entrée to film acting on the back of his father's reputation. Douglas served his apprenticeship, beginning in 1972, in four fairly gruelling years of the television series *The Streets of San Francisco*, playing "second banana" to Karl Malden.

He did 104 one-hour shows, working a six-day week of up to 16 hours a day for eight months at a stretch. He learnt both discipline and structure; and the hippie turned into a professional actor. Malden, a veteran of Lee Strasberg's Studio, taught Douglas, among other things, the art of listening. This, along with the art of being still, is the key to movie acting, and Douglas has learnt that well too.

Towards the end of this period, he went through his father's files and discovered that he owned the rights to Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Kirk had given up on the project, after years of difficulty in finding finance, although it would seem to be an odd choice for such a protean figure. To Michael, however, who had spent his youth not a million miles from Kesey's brand of drug-inspired Utopia-seeking, the project was a natural.

Four years of organizing funds and talking his father out of the leading role paid off with five

Oscars, including a Best Picture for himself as producer. For an independent producer, working outside the studio system for the first time, the success was remarkable. Suddenly he was, in local parlance, seriously bankable.

His next film, *The China Syndrome*, like *Cuckoo*, combined strong entertainment with a social conscience, this time about the nuclear industry. Although Douglas viewed it, quite rightly, as a sort of "monster horror" film, he cast himself third string to Jane Fonda and Jack Lemmon, both known for their obvious public personas. Three Mile Island going up in smoke during the third week of the picture's release did not exactly hurt its box office chances. But it is of interest in the development of Douglas's acting career in that he allowed an irascible side of his nature to be seen. He has since explained that this was a useful way of letting off the repressed anger which builds up from having, as the film's producer, to placate everyone.

Romancing the Stone, and its sequel, *The Jewel of the Nile*, in which he was again producer/actor, may well be seen as relaxations, and indeed their whole tone of ease and amiability in the face of danger suggest a man coasting through the sort of thrills that would have inspired his father to lose a finger (Hawks' *The Big Sky*), an eye (Fleischer's *The Vikings*), an ear (Minnelli's *Lust for Life*) or be crucified (Kubrick's *Spartacus*). Still, they were successful with a public already satiated on Indiana Jones and they suggest a producer with a sure sense of what places backsides on seats.

And now, at the age of 43, he is once more returned to that rarefied plateau on which stars dwell. *Fatal Attraction* took \$94 million at the box office in its first nine weeks of release in the United States; and *Wall Street* gained him his first Oscar for Best Actor.

The unmistakable sound of feminist beatings over *Fatal Attraction*, with its descent of a career woman through neurosis to full knife-wielding psychopathy, obscured a film which, in fact, is



both more and less interesting than has been noticed. Less interesting in that Grand Guignol melodrama does better by discarding realism as in such films as *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane*. More interesting because of Douglas's performance. He does well to defer to Glenn Close as the film's centre of energy, but her blank-eyed madness would be left in a void were it not for Douglas's subtle gradations of a man content to be nice, but gradually becoming glassy with anxiety as every potential male neurosis takes palpable

shape after a little philandering. If Close is the story's main edifice, Douglas is its bedrock.

And finally, with *Wall Street*, Douglas seems to have finally acknowledged his father's greatest discovery: that virtue does not photograph well. Wearing a pair of braces the way that Jack Palance used to wear a gumbell, his Gordon Gekko, a Wall Street Mephistopheles to Charlie Sheen's young Faust, is further evidence that evil is more truly spiritual in its attractions than good.

It is a character which takes an honourable place in a long line,



from Burt Lancaster's *J.J. Hunsecker* in *Sweet Smell of Success* to Kirk Douglas's venal reporter, Chuck Tatum, in *Ace in the Hole*, a portrait of man on all fours and delighting in it. And he has one great line: "Lunch!" he shouts down the phone to an invitation. "Lunch is for winners." With luck it will strike fear into the hearts of media folk everywhere and ought to stand as an epitaph for the greedy Eighties.

Chris Peachment
Wall Street reviewed, page 30

BIOGRAPHY

1944 Born September 25, eldest son of Kirk/Diana Douglas
1968 Graduated, University of California. Studied drama
1969 First film: *Hall, Hero*
1972 *The Streets of San Francisco*, TV series
1975 Produced *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
1977 Married, now has one son
1979 Actor/producer *The China Syndrome*
1984 Actor/producer *Romancing the Stone*
1987 Starred in *Fatal Attraction*
1988 Won Oscar for *Wall Street*

TOMORROW

Randolph Quirk on grammar. Does it matter? And if it does, how should it be taught?



CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1551

ACROSS
1 Printing sanction (10)
8 Localised (7)
9 Essential (5)
10 Bricks over (4)
11 Prism output (8)
13 Paper (5)
14 Score (5)
16 Sedateness (8)
18 Wander (4)
21 High icy clouds (5)
22 Violent cyclone (7)
23 Comment critically (10)

DOWN
1 Yield to (7)
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The Times Jumbo prize crossword will appear on Saturday

Are diamonds really a girl's best friend?

The diamond season is upon us, with a \$9 million record price paid at Sotheby's New York last week, and the Aga Khan's grandfather's gems coming up at Christie's, Geneva, on May 12. But these are only the most publicized manifestations of a prolonged worldwide preoccupation with diamonds. After a slump in the early 1980s, they have become the best friend of girls all over the world, the latest market being Japan.

How can we explain the hold this glittering prize has on our society, from the wealthy clientele of Bond Street to the secretaries who peer wistfully through the windows of Hutton Garden during their lunch hours? Diamond sales are booming even at Argos discount showrooms, where less reflective buyers scoop them up by the hundred, along with their Sony Walkmans and lawnmowers.

Diamonds like last week's pear-shaped one (the purchase of which, incidentally, won the London dealer Laurence Graff worldwide publicity) are unquestionably mineralogical miracles, with their capacity for reflection and refraction. Due to their rarity they have always been prestige commodities; status symbols for mas-

artfile



SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

A weekly look at the art world

arches. But the diamond's current popularity has much to do with the seductive marketing techniques of the industry, starting off exactly 50 years ago with these now famous words: "A diamond is forever."

They were coined by De Beers, a near-monopoly which "stabilizes" 80 per cent of the world's diamond market, and whose profits were a record £244 million last year.

early last month on the commemoration of the firm's 100th anniversary, was actually mined two years ago, then boarded.

But can such a mineral truly enhance the body beautiful? Can it really be the best symbol of love, as De Beers puts it about, particularly when, nowadays, thanks to new-fangled cutting methods, its facets are harsh and machine-made? Is it not just a cynical investment, and not even a safe one at that?

Despite the current ascension of the diamond, there are always those uncomfortable occasions when prices plummet. In the early part of the decade, despite all efforts from De Beers, the value of a top quality polished one carat diamond sank from \$60,000 to \$10,000.

At the humbler end of the market, the diamond can be a dodgy investment. "My mother's wedding ring cost £20 in 1921," says Peter Younger of Hutton Garden auctions. "Now it's worth £1,000. That's what I call waiting a long time."

Today, a new engagement ring, which cost £287 to make, may well sell for £1,000 in a shop, after mark-ups from the manufacturer (40 per cent) and the retailer (50 per cent).



Glittering: the late Begum Aga Khan with her stepson, Prince Ali Khan. She is wearing some of the family diamonds and emeralds to be auctioned at Christie's

Because of this, a spurred fiancé would probably find it difficult to sell back the ring and recoup his money.

As a working girl who unconsciously sheds jewellery as she goes along, I am a supporter of the inexpensive costume variety. However, if I

had a wealthy admirer, I would opt for jewellery with more soul than the average rock on a ring — jewellery which involves loving craftsmanship and a sympathetic understanding of its materials, like Renaissance jewellery, or the Indian jewellery now on

show at Spink, India was for 2,000 years, until 1725, the only major source of diamonds in the world. There, purity of stone was considered subordinate to overall effect. In its setting, a diamond would modestly rub shoulders with sapphires and emeralds.

Most fascinating is the way in which the Indians used jewellery in which to reflect their beliefs about the universe.

These, in brief, were that the universe contains nine planets, each personified by an astral deity. Each of the deities had a particular gemstone associated with it, and the disposition of these jewels could bring about "cosmic harmony" in the life of the wearer.

As the exhibition organizer, Michael Spink, says, indicating a bangleband (arm bracelet) with nine stones: "These days people buy jewellery as investment, and never look beyond the obvious."

"With this bracelet, you are wearing a mini cosmic diagram on your arm."

In Renaissance Europe, there was an entire discipline of associations connected with jewels, although somewhat more prosaic. The amethyst, for example, protected its wearer against drunkenness; while the emerald "maketh a good man to understand well and giveth him a good mind". Diamonds were also useful aids against your enemies, whether "cruel men" or "wild beasts".

TIMES DIARY

RICHARD COBB

I have always been very much in favour of the Channel Tunnel and hope to live long enough to take the train from London to Paris. I was reminded of this when I made the Channel crossing by ferry this month. In the Thirties, and, again, in the mid-Forties and the Fifties, I was quite happy with the cross-Channel boats, especially by Newhaven-Dieppe (the best entrance to France); but that was before the big car ferries (named, no doubt deliberately, after craggy sounding pre-Conquest Saxon kings), bingo, and the multiple discomforts guaranteed by Sealink, especially to the degraded foot passengers, last on, last off, the P&O of both the short and the long cross-Channel routes.

For the Channel Tunnel to be efficient and agreeable, one condition would have to be laid down from the start. It would have to be operated over the whole route by the SNCF. The slogan would be: "France starts at Victoria". Then there would be the same comforting sense of having jumped the gun and got away from the island while still actually on the island, as one used to feel when checking in on a single-berth wagon-lit on the old nine o'clock night ferry: the dark blue and gold carriages of that splendid Belgian enterprise.

One of the brown uniformed *contrôleurs*, most of whom appeared to be French, anyway were French speaking, and who, in humbler moments, stoked the coke-burning stove at the end of the carriage, looked up one's name on a list, one handed in one's passport, and one was woken by a discreet tap on the door of the compartment at about 7am. The blind, pulled up a little, would reveal, flying past, the wide, flat plains of the Pays de France.

Going by Channel could never be as leisurely and as painless as that. But the important thing would be to keep British Rail out of it the whole way: an SNCF-type TGV would be waiting at its special platform at Victoria, and it would be operated exclusively by SNCF personnel. Then there would be a reasonable chance that the train would both leave and arrive on time. No "BR regrets"...

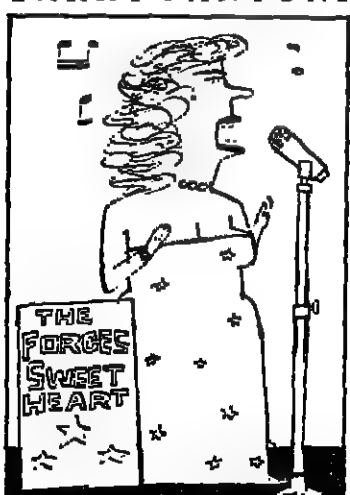
But I don't think for a moment that it will work out that way. BR will insist on holding on to its chunk of the journey. I expect it will turn out that the agency will be even more prolonged than at present, and that one will be jerked and shuddered the whole way through the tunnel, the dirty plastic cups rolling merrily between one's feet, and then obliged to change trains at Calais. Still, even that is better than being a proletarian, despised "foot passenger", last on, last off.

Returning to Bayeux during my recent holiday, I was immediately struck by the way the place absolutely bristled with little white signposts. Of course there had been a good many of these at the entrances and exits of the town in the summer of 1944, the last time I was there; but these had been in English, or rather in a sort of military code made up of numbers and initials and divisional signs. Now they are all in French, most of them, working from the outskirts inwards, steadily towards the centre, as if they had been an invading force, pointed to la Tapisserie.

In the centre there were signposts attached to lamp-posts, some to trees every few yards. It looked as if the town had actually been built around it. It certainly seems to live off it, even to thrive on it. In the summer of 1944 the tapestry had remained hidden, only a very few people knew just where; I was told later that it had been put away in a high-walled convent. The Germans had searched for it for four years, Goering wanting it for his art collection. I think it was taken out of hiding in about 1947.

The signposts pointing to la Tapisserie had spawned other signposts that appeared to be growing on sign-post trees, pointing wildly in every direction to pizza bars, snacks, sandwiches, restaurants, souvenir shops (selling long cardboard pull-overs of the tapestry). The proximity of la Tapisserie could be measured further by the increasing concentration of school buses with French and English number-plates, and by the crowds of children being herded towards the rather handsome 18th-century building that housed the precious yards of silk. It was part of the municipal library, and faced on to the Hôtel-Dieu, where there was less activity.

BARRY FANTONI



"There'll be blue helmets over the white cliffs of Dover..."

I was told that one could "do" the tapestry - including the visual and aural aids and a preliminary talk in a choice of four languages at the press of a button - in about 11 minutes (taking the Conquest at a pretty spanking pace, I would have thought). As the schoolchildren filed into, then out of, the tapestry section, two hearses, each with a coffin and yellow curtains and accompanied by men in blue uniforms with silver emblems on their peaked caps, came apologetically out of the nearby hospital. The two in the coffins had presumably been Bayeuxians, and would have seen the tapestry; if they hadn't, they had missed the chance for good.

I thought I would give the tapestry a miss. It could wait for another time: mid-November seemed indicated. Before leaving the town I left a copy of my book, *People and Places*, in the part of the library not occupied by la Tapisserie. I told an assistant that there was a piece in it about Bayeux. The room was full of children getting out Tintin and Asterix. I expect they had become a bit blasé about the thing next door.

As Saudi Arabia breaks off relations with Iran the tensions within Islam continue to increase. The breakdown comes only months before the pilgrimage to Mecca when thousands will arrive at the holy city.

Nine times the size of Great Britain and one fourth the size of the United States, but with an indigenous population of less than 7 million, the kingdom dominates the Arabian peninsula but is a troubled giant.

While the West has long appreciated its strategic preeminence in the region and the western industrialized nations physically experienced Saudi's enormous influence among the Opec countries in the 1970s, it is often overlooked that the king also carries responsibilities for two of the principal holy shrines in Islamic civilization, Mecca and Medina.

This latter role as protector or, more accurately, servant, of the holy cities has been challenged in the past, but never as violently as by the Iranian revolutionaries headed by Ayatollah Khomeini.

These challenges are sometimes based on internal grievances (such as the 1979 assault on Mecca), but more often on Islamic doctrinal differences, or simply on a direct challenge to the Royal House of Saud (it was only in mid-1924 that King Ibn Saud captured the two holy cities

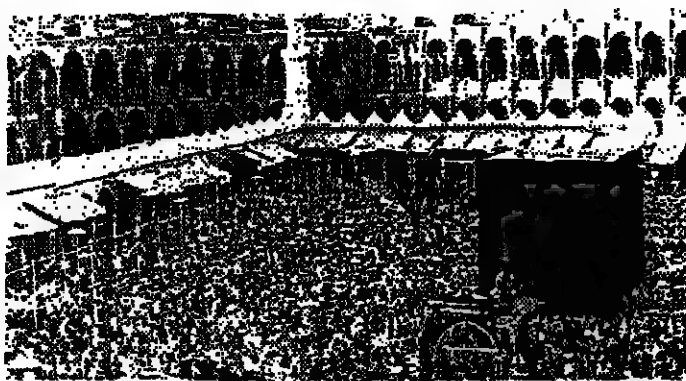
and two years later proclaimed himself King of the Hejaz). After centuries of Turkish hegemony (however nominal) over the two cities their recapture by conservative Arab Muslims, known as the Muwahhiddun - or unitarians - of central Saudi Arabia was not only historically significant but signalled the reassertion of the Arab Islamic community at a time when most of the Middle Eastern states were ruled by Europeans who were gradually westernizing their societies.

While Saudi Arabia during the 1950s and '60s was shrouded in mystery and known only to those in the oil industry, a few diplomats, and perhaps a few western traders, the kingdom quietly but forcefully asserted its place in the political arena.

Under the adroit and dignified leadership of King Faisal, it became first a political then an economic focal point for not only regional states but for the Western powers, especially the US.

Hans-Heino Kopietz on Saudi Arabia's break with Tehran

The crisis facing Mecca



Mecca: the Iranians' proposed battleground

By the end of 1973, at the time of the first oil shock, all eyes were on Saudi Arabia - and that despite the continuing drama in Vietnam. Her newly found political and economic prestige, however, also forced on to her new responsibilities.

In response to the massive militarization of Iran, the Shah's ambitious regional plans and Iraq's radical and revolutionary stance with equally unbridled ambitions in the region, the Gulf

regime had seized power in Iran; while the new regime may not have territorial ambitions as such, Tehran has posed a major threat to Saudi Arabia.

This fundamental divergence between Sunni Islam, as practised in Saudi Arabia, and Shia Islam, as practised in Iran, lies in the question of *Imamate*, or the succession to the Prophet. In the eyes of the Ayatollah and his followers present-day Islamic regions are decadent and straying from the Prophet's principles. In his view governments should be entrusted to the religious leaders. This is a direct challenge to all states, especially the Saudi kingdom since it is the servant of the holy places.

During the eight and a half years since Iraq attacked Iran, Saudi Arabia along with her neighbours has maintained normal but tense diplomatic relations with Iran. This is something which western observers have found difficult to understand, especially as Saudi Arabia has supported Iraq

against Iran. Yet it was a prudent policy since it helped to contain the war to the northern end of the Gulf.

Events in the past year however have made this policy impossible. Iran's challenge to the Saudis has become intolerable. Despite the violence in Mecca during the pilgrimage last summer the Saudi kingdom remained relatively restrained. With the *haj* (the pilgrimage) only a few weeks away and the Iranians insisting on sending at least 150,000 pilgrims with avowed instructions to demonstrate against the royal house, the kingdom's patience has come to an end.

The war itself is a tragedy. To bring this conflict into the sanctity of the holy cities compounds it. For the Saudi government not to take precautionary measures would be foolhardy and tantamount to giving up its claim to the guardianship of the holy cities. Not to react to recent Iranian challenges would be impolitic. The irony, however, is that despite massive investment in the military, the acquisition of Tornado aircraft and Chinese missiles, an ideological war cannot be fought by these means. That is the lesson the Greeks called *Prometheus bound*.

The author is an analyst at the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Bernard Levin

All the world's a cage



Company might feel happy to contemplate, some of them unwilling to share so much as a box of chocolates in the theatre with a South African representative. I take many of the details of my list from Charles Humana's indispensable *World Human Rights Guide*, now published by *The Economist*, a work as accurate as it is impartial.

The Bolivian flag flew on the Birthday, yet the *Guide* reports that Amerindians have "second class status". Happy to play before a Bolivian audience, we, the boys and girls, refused its flag air-space, but oppress its racial minorities ("... social and educational penalties... forced changes of names from the original ethnic ones..."). Or - here's a biggie, boys and girls - China, which has destroyed almost the entire indigenous culture of Tibet, together with a large proportion

of the Tibetan people, and which has got quite far in its programme of erasing the very notion of Tibet from the earth.

Untroubled, are we, by the presence of the Chinese ambassador in our theatre, provided the South African one is thrown out? Or - another biggie coming up - Ethiopia. President Botha is a right bastard, no doubt of it, but he isn't waging a war of genocidal extermination, and Brother Mengistu is, (Yes, yes, chaps - he's only a dorkie, and doesn't know any better - was that what you were going to say?)

And what about India? True, successive prime ministers have flapped an irritated hand at the caste system from time to time, but nothing serious has been done about a system of discrimination that would have Pretoria's ambassador thrown to the swans in Stratford if you actor-journalists had your way.

Indonesia? Ethnic oppression (oh, I can bandy jargon with the best) from one end of the

country to the other. The Indonesians stayed away from the Bardfest, you may be sure. But would you have had no qualms if they had been there? Or Iraq? Another case of genocide here, the victims this time being the Kurds; the high-minded Iraqis stayed away, of course. (The Iraqis didn't even reply to the invitation; they were probably too busy genociding such Kurds as the Iraqis had missed.)

Here's a lovely one: Israel. Leave out the recent horrors in the Gaza Strip; there can be no doubt that the Israeli majority discriminates against the Arabs. The trouble with including Israel, though, is that many of you strolling players would like to ban its representatives anyway, but that would spoil the symmetry of your South African case besides opening the door to the kind of catalogue I have been compiling. Mind you, the Soviet Union discriminates against Jews, indeed institutionalizes anti-semitism, so maybe you

think that evens the score.

Kenya, Liberia and Zaire all practise racial discrimination, and Zimbabwe goes in for genocide too, though it has tailed off lately, possibly because Mr Mugabe can't find any more Matabele to murder. And what about Pakistan, Romania, Sri Lanka (where mutual racism has wiped out many a Shakespeare-lover, and lots more folk besides) and Vietnam?

Vietnam? Vietnam? Do I dare to say that that paradise on earth practises ethnic apartheid? Alas, I do, for it does (against the Chinese, among others), and there the Vietnamese were, boycotting the Birthday Boy like billy-o because of the presence of a South African in the audience.

And note that I have restricted myself entirely to racial discrimination and oppression; I have ignored the countless other crimes against liberty of all kinds that are committed by scores of countries throughout the world, many of them far worse than the worst the South Africans have ever achieved.

What, then, is the answer? The answer, that is from those actors and actresses of the RSC who strain at the camel of South Africa and swallow a whole herd of camels throughout the world? If apartheid is uniquely evil, why are its manifestations ignored everywhere except in that one country? If race is the only test, why are dozens of countries which fail it excused, and only one charged? If the world must unite against South African wickedness, why may it ignore those other nations who practise the same wickedness? If the presence of a South African at Shakespeare's birthday celebration will poison the entire day, why do the other tainted wethers serve only to sweeten the air?

I don't know. But part of the answer may be that the actors and actresses of the Royal Shakespeare Company should find out a little more about the world before condemning one, and only one, part of it.

Commentary • RONALD BUTT

Tories and chips

When Norman Tebbit delivered the inaugural lecture for a new body called the Radical Society there was a large and apparently mainly Tory audience. But on the platform the apostle of pure self-help Thatcherism was surrounded by people whose roots were in what used to be called the social democratic wing of the Labour Party and who had, for the most part, either graduated to the old, pre-split SDP and stayed there or had moved on to the Tories.

These included Neville Sandelson, the former Labour MP later expelled from the old SDP for his "Vote Tory" call, the former Labour minister, John Horgan, who has moved to the Tories via the SDP and now articulates Thatcherism as to the manner born, and Stephen Haseler, the former Labour GLC councillor who became a Social Democrat with strong emotional ties to the American Right.

Normally it was an all or a non-party occasion with even, as Mr Tebbit revealed later on television, a member of the Labour Party on the platform. Asked who that was he replied, with his inimitable double-edged smile, that he thought that Lord Chaplin was "still a member of the Labour Party", which was no doubt interesting news to many.

The best way to understand what the group is about is to meditate on the names of the formation committee. This includes Lord Marsh, who used to make no bones when he was a Labour minister about his preference for being a tycoon, and Brian Walden. But to leave us in no doubt, Mr Tebbit explained. The Radical Society believes in the market. Socialism could now be pronounced brain-dead

even if its limbs still twitched (the ex-socialists on the platform smiled with pleasure at this macabre metaphor). Post-war Conservatives, he said, had assumed the self-imposed task of administering the system they had inherited but this corporatist, class-ridden consensus had failed and had been finally routed by Thatcherism.

"The middle-class, middle-aged membership, deferential to the class-based structure of the pre-war Conservatives, has been pushed aside by younger, sharper meritocrats of working-class origin." But class barriers and barriers of snobbery still had to be broken down.

Here one began to see that a good deal of the cement uniting Mr Tebbit with his strange social democratic (and ex-socialist) bedfellows is provided by class. Preoccupation with class was always what motivated those middle-class (Croslandite) socialists who defected to the SDP but who in their own day had been pathfinders for comprehensive education and abolishing grammar and even independent schools. Their hearts had also been in the building of council tower blocks which Mr Tebbit now denounced as paternalistic.

Yet they now smiled blithely when Mr Tebbit told a joke which described extremist socialists as those who wanted to abolish independent schools and moderates as those who wanted to wait until their own children had finished there. They also nodded sagely as he condemned (their) tower blocks.

There is much to be said for converts and everything for a Toryism that admits people from all classes. But then it

always has. Whether, however, the Tory party will prosper as a pushing and shoving party, knowing the price of everything and the value of little, and which is contemptuous of social structure is another matter.

The next day, John Stokes, an old-style paternalist right-wing Tory if ever there was one, who sits for a working-class seat, asked the Prime Minister in the Commons whether, in view of Mr Tebbit's speech, there was room in the Tory party still for the nobility, gentry and the middle classes. It was a funny way to put it but one grasps the point. It is right for the Tories to be open and flexible about class but it is quite the wrong moment to start talking a new kind of "overturning" class rhetoric from the right. There is much to be said for a bit of social stability with the push and shove.

Mr Tebbit is also worried that we still lack a coherent alternative to Tory government which accepts the market economy. Certainly a decent opposition is in the national interest and every government benefits from one. Whether it is the business of a Conservative ex-Cabinet minister to help conjure up an opposition is a matter of opinion, but with his well-known political altruism Mr Tebbit seems to be attempting it.

I doubt, however, whether he will produce it from the majority of those around him in the Radical Society even if, in the manner of converts, they are now *plus Thatcheriste que la Reine*. For it is their attitudes to class and planning which largely got us into the mess from which we have begun to emerge. Less talk about class is what is needed, not more.

SCIENCE REPORT

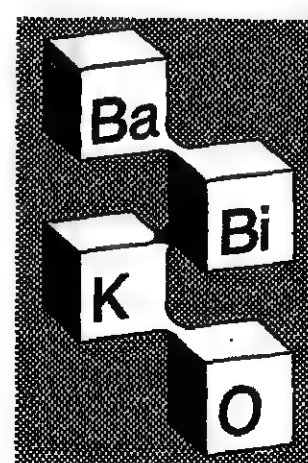
Super heat race

US researchers have entered a new kind of ceramic in the race to find materials that become superconductors at ever higher temperatures. Although the temperature to which the material must be cooled before it loses its electrical resistance is lower than that of others reported in the past year, it is remarkable because it contains no copper.

The two-year race has seen transition temperatures - the temperature below which a material loses its resistance to electricity - raised from 23K (-250C) to 125K (-146C) - the highest confirmed transition temperature for a ceramic made of copper oxide, calcium, barium and thallium.

In *Nature* this week R.J. Cava and colleagues at the AT&T Bell Laboratories in New Jersey report the onset of superconductivity at about 30K (-243C) in barium potassium bismuth oxide, which researchers believe could pre-empt a new class of superconducting ceramic.

The material is closely related to the 12K superconductor, barium lead bismuth oxide, discovery of which in 1975 led superconductor pioneers Bednorz and Müller to investigate mixed copper oxide ceramics. Since their 1986 breakthrough, research into bismuth oxide-based superconductors has fallen by the wayside. But T.M. Rice, of the Theoretical Physics Institute in Zurich, says the latest work establishes bismuth oxides as "the clear runner-up to copper oxide".



The first of the new "high temperature" superconductors were mixed oxides of copper and "rare earths" such as lanthanum or yttrium. Bednorz and Müller's lanthanum-based material became a superconductor at about 40K (-233C). Four months later, an yttrium-based material with a transition temperature above the boiling point of nitrogen (77K) was discovered by C.W. Chu and colleagues at the University of Houston.

A year-long stall at around 90K was broken by Hiroshi Maeda in Japan, who achieved even higher transition temperatures by substituting the metal bismuth for the rare earths. Science Report, March 4. Hot on his heels, Z.Z. Sheng and A.M. Hermann, of the University of Arkansas, reported superconductivity onset at 81K - revised the following week to 120K - in a

rare earth-free system based on thallium.

Rice says that although the new bismuth compounds and the copper-based substances belong to the class of minerals called perovskites, they are different in structure. The bismuth compounds have a three-dimensional structure in contrast with the two-dimensional, layered structure of the copper oxide superconductors. But whether they share the same mechanism of superconductivity is unknown. It is hoped that the prospect of more copper-free, high temperature superconductors will make it easier to find out why some materials superconduct at high temperatures while others do not.

A material becomes a superconductor when it loses all electrical resistance. Electricity flows through the material without loss of energy. But until quite recently superconductor research has been under the exclusive purview of those working on the behaviour of matter at ultra-low temperatures, close to absolute zero (about -273C), the temperature at which materials lose their electrical resistance.

The ultimate prize will be a material which superconducts at room temperature. Researchers are still 150C short of the target, and the promise of a new class of material to stand beside the copper oxide ceramics means that no clear winners are yet in sight.

HENRY GEE

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BREAKING WITH KHOMEINI

The decision by Saudi Arabia to break off diplomatic relations with Iran is the culmination of 12 months of bitter argument between the leaders of modern Islam. But its causes are rooted much more deeply in the past — and its impact on future developments in the Gulf could have effects far into the future.

After several years of increasing violence during the haj, the grand annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, a climax was reached last July when more than 400 people died in riots. That the disturbances were masterminded from Tehran has never been doubted. But the moodshed led to protests in both countries — and lengthy negotiations between the two governments. It was as a result of the breakdown of these last week, that the Saudis have apparently acted.

The cause of the breakdown lay in Tehran's refusal to co-operate with Riyadh's policy of limiting the numbers on this year's haj. Ayatollah Khomeini's insistence on dispatching around 150,000 to the holy places in 10 weeks' time has carried a further threat to hard-pressed Saudi security. By breaking off relations, the Saudi Government has not only registered its protest, but has shown its determination to control the flow of pilgrims from Iran.

This is not, however, the only quarrel between them. Saudi suspicion of Iranian expansionist plans in the Gulf was evident during the reign of the late Shah. Since his overthrow in 1979, inspired by Shia Muslim fundamentalism, the revolutionary fervour of the mullahs and their hostility to those who stand in their way has threatened not only the external security of the conservative Gulf states, but their internal stability too.

It was this fear, rather than any feeling of Arab or Sunni solidarity, which led them to support Iraq during the Gulf War. Iranian recriminations against Iraq's allies, against Kuwait as well as Saudi Arabia, have served only to widen the gap between them. It seems unlikely in such circumstances, that other Muslims in the Gulf will be affronted by Saudi

attempts to keep the peace during this year's pilgrimage. Whether these Saudi attempts will now succeed remains unclear. It is certainly too much to hope that the Iranians will repent and make amends. The explosion at the Saudi airline's office in Kuwait yesterday suggests the most likely reaction from Tehran. It would be wise to expect a rise rather than a diminution in Iran's attacks on its Arab neighbours in the Gulf.

But this was predictable in Riyadh too. The fact that the Saudis have broken off relations none the less, inviting the wrath of the outraged ayatollahs, indicates the recent growth of Arab confidence.

The success of the Iraqi operation on the Fao peninsula, was the first significant reverse for the Iranian army in several years. It came, moreover, after a period of falling oil revenue and an apparent Iranian shortage of military manpower. Last week's violence in the Gulf, when the US Navy destroyed two Iranian oil platforms and crippled several of their warships, completed a humiliating period for Tehran.

The Saudi action reflects Iran's diplomatic isolation. This is not a new phenomenon in itself. Depleted of friends as well as funds, Tehran has fought on in the war, refusing all invitations to make peace. It has been clear for a long time that the Iranians, irrational, fanatical and by no means militarily inept, might be persuaded to make peace only when the pursuit of war was made impossible.

Tehran is still some way away from this impasse. But it would seem that its capacity to make trouble is being reduced. The recent hijack drama on board the Kuwaiti airliner was hardly an Iranian success. By severing links with Tehran, the Saudis have removed all lingering hopes that they might act as mediators in the Gulf War. But this never looked likely anyway. More significant is the fact that the Iranians have been shown once more that countries are no longer afraid to stand up to them. That is the most promising path to peace, — and not just on the haj.

SWEET LESSONS

Television viewers are nightly being addressed by successful businessmen presenting Government advertisements for the opportunities offered by the single European market after 1992. These rightly stress that businesses should act with urgency. For the obverse of that picture of opportunity for those who take the changes seriously is the forward planning in the rest of the Community which will threaten those who do not.

As the balance sheet stands today, the threats look greater than the opportunities likely to be seized. British companies, and particularly the financial sector which largely controls their shares, are latecomers to thinking in European terms.

There has been a dramatic lesson on the stock market this week. It now seems more likely than not that both the leading British confectionery firms, Cadbury Schweppes and Rowntree Mackintosh, will end up in foreign control in a matter of weeks.

That control may, in fact, be foreign even to the financially united European Community, for the bidders and declared suitors are headquartered in Switzerland and the United States respectively. (The American group staking Cadbury Schweppes may have sensed the potential to sell its famous chocolate division to whichever Swiss firm is disappointed in its bid for Rowntree's). These corporate aggressors have understood the implications of the breakdown of market barriers within the Community, even if many EC companies still have not.

In the past the food industry has been forced as much as any to treat each European country as a separate market with different regulations. This is carried to an extreme in the chocolate business, where non-tariff barriers in Belgium, Germany and other member states are even worse than in the rest of the world.

The two takeover targets are successful

companies which are also in a good position to take advantage of the breakdown of barriers. They have strong brand names, in some cases of world stature, built up over decades of skilful marketing. There is a general tendency for markets for both consumer and industrial goods to become more international. Brand names promoted round the world, from Coca Cola downwards, are a part of that trend and are made yet more valuable thereby. Nestlé is prepared to pay £1.5 billion for Rowntree's brand names, quite apart from its more tangible business assets.

Even the largest industrial companies now understand that to compete successfully in this new environment, it is better to build strong positions in a world market, however specialised, than to try to produce everything for the home market. Too many British companies have neglected the value of brand names. Too often these have only reached their full potential in foreign ownership.

Few of the financial institutions which control the destiny of British companies have made that transition. World brands attract little awe on the stock market, where the loyalty that makes them almost priceless is viewed as sentiment rather than virtue.

Rowntree's small shareholders demonstrated at their annual meeting that their company could remain independent if the decision were in their hands. But they have little more influence than the consumers who react with shock, sometimes misplaced, at such financial moves.

These two particular companies have a special place in popular feeling because of their owners' non-conformist social responsibility in the era before the welfare state. Their fate may therefore give a more powerful message about the changing climate of European business than all the Government's efforts.

FROM POLITICS TO OLYMPICS

The poor showing by President Roh Tae Woo's Democratic Justice Party in South Korea's parliamentary elections is a good sign for the fledgling South Korean democracy. It suggests that, by Korean standards, the elections were fairly managed. The allegations of fraud, that have so often followed South Korean elections, are weaker than in the past. As both the government and opposition parties seem ready to accept the result, politics — for a few months at least — are more likely to be conducted in Parliament than on the streets.

Whether the results of the elections will make a major contribution to the good of South Korea in the longer term is another matter. Neither the governing Democratic Justice Party of President Roh Tae Woo, nor the two main opposition parties together have gained an absolute majority. The balance is held by what has been described as a "maverick conservative" party, the New Democratic Republican Party, led by Mr Kim Jong Pil, former head of the South Korean Central Intelligence Agency.

The government is appointed by the President and he will be able to rule even without a parliamentary majority, but its position is likely to become increasingly uncomfortable. It may seek to do a deal with Mr Kim Jong Pil, or with either of the main opposition parties, the Party for Peace and Democracy of Mr Kim Dae Jung, and the Renaissance Democratic Party of Mr Kim Young Sam, which are at odds with each other. The next few months will see much bargaining as the parties jockey for position.

Although they may be competing for a share of the power, the parties take a similar approach to economic and social questions. The great national issue — reunification with the North — is unlikely to return to the real

agenda soon, so they can well agree to differ on how to pursue it.

Moreover, despite considerable popular hostility to the United States, neither of the opposition parties has adopted an anti-American stance. Their leaders may recall that American intervention saved them on occasion from imprisonment and worse under the previous military government. This should make coalition government easier than it might otherwise be.

The real divisions between the parties result from the events of the past decades, and reflect their divergent views of military involvement in government. Mr Roh Tae Woo is the direct successor of the military government. Both the main opposition leaders were imprisoned by it, and their followers were tortured and killed. They want redress.

Mr Kim Dae Jung, in particular, sees himself duty bound to seek a full inquiry into the savage suppression of the Kwangju disturbances in 1980, since the bulk of his support comes from that area. So an agreement there to let sleeping dogs lie is not likely — especially since the dogs in question, the army and intelligence services, are far from fully asleep and will be following current events closely.

With the Olympics approaching, South Korea will be in the eyes of the world. This should moderate the behaviour of all parties. In particular, they must be encouraged to keep their power struggles confined to Parliament, and away from the streets.

They must never lose sight of the tyranny to the north. South Koreans have a special interest in the stability of their reborn democracy, won at considerable human cost. They should exercise every restraint to make sure that it survives.

Role of Lords in poll tax clash

From Lord Halsbury of St Marylebone, KG, CH
Sir, Despite his undoubted brilliance, courtesy and charm, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead (April 26) is rather out of his depth in constitutional matters.

Until the unhappy rejection by the Lords of the 1909 Budget, the prevailing doctrine was that, while the Lords could not dispute the Commons privilege by amending a taxation provision, it could none the less reject a whole Finance Bill in toto. This position is more or less reflected in the Australian Constitution of 1900 (where, however, both Houses are elective), and this led to the rather unedifying constitutional crisis there in 1975 between Sir John Kerr and Mr Whitlam.

What Halsbury and his Diehards were fighting for, and lost, was the right to reject and not the right to amend which had been tacitly abandoned long before 1900. Halsbury was the general editor and not the author of Halsbury's Laws of England. I was quoting from the 4th edition which gives the state of the law in July 1980 and not 1909.

The title authors of the title "Parliament" are, respectively Lord Elwyn Jones, then Lord Chancellor, Lord Henderson of Brompton (then Clerk of the Parliaments) and Sir Richard Baines (then Clerk of the House of Commons), a formidable trio with whom Lord Jenkins would be unwise to do battle.

The conventions of the Constitution regarding the rejection (as distinct from amendment) of Bills are only partly contained in the Parliament Acts 1911 and 1949. It is now generally considered unconstitutional for the House of Lords to reject on second reading a Government Bill introduced after a general election when the proposal embodying it was contained in the manifesto before the election and the Bill has been passed by the Commons.

But my letter to you (April 23) referred to the debate on Mr Bates' amendment and not to the supposed power to reject which, under present conventions, is far more constrained in its proper use.

Yours etc,
HAILSHAM (Editor in Chief, Halsbury's Laws of England, 4th edition),
House of Lords,
April 26.

From Lord Chelwood
Sir, Lord Rathbone, who succeeded me as MP for Lewes, draws attention (April 23) to the role of the Parliament summoned by Simon de Montfort in 1265. It was to protest against the absolute authority of the executive.

For the first time, as well as prelates and barons, the sheriffs were ordered to send to Westminster "loyal, honest and discreet knights of each shire", and they were joined by citizens and burgesses from the main cities. In other words, it was the first English Parliament that could be termed "representative".

After the Battle of Lewes, an unknown noble wrote "The Song of Lewes", in which he advises: "Let a prince to reign that he may never find it necessary to avoid depending on his subjects..."

I suggest that this advice is as sound today as it was seven centuries ago, and with the utmost respect to Lord Halsbury (April 23), that it is more relevant than the constitutional niceties of the 17th century.

Yours sincerely,
CHELWOOD,
House of Lords,
April 25.

Juveniles in custody

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust
Sir, In his letter today (April 21) the Minister of State at the Home Office, Mr John Patten, rightly lauds the dramatic reduction in the use of custody against juveniles over the past five years.

However, he singularly fails to demonstrate why custody should still be retained for 14-year-olds boys when it is not available for girls of the same age; nor why these boys should be subject to a custodial regime which is harsher and more rigorous than is to be found anywhere in the adult penal system.

Mr Patten clearly shares the long-established objections to custody for juveniles — that it is expensive, ineffective and often counter-productive. The report stage of the Criminal Justice Bill provides an opportunity to end the sexual discrimination in juvenile sentencing and to further promote the shift in attitude towards the treatment of juvenile offenders which the courts have already shown.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW, Director,
Prison Reform Trust,
59 Caledonian Road, N1,
April 21.

Lucia miscast

From Mr Bernard Denvir
Sir, It seems at least a bit petty, Not to give to Donizetti The credit of composing, at least in part,

A work which (radio programmes, April 25) you assign to Mozart. Yours etc,
BERNARD DENVIR,
85 Knaith Road, SE5,
April 22.

Dilemma over electricity industry

From the General Secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association

Sir, I was surprised to read your report (April 22) on the views of the Association for the Conservation of Energy (Ace) about the US regulatory system for electrical utilities.

We also have studied the American regulatory system and we agree with Mr Spicer (Under Secretary of State for Energy) and not with Ace about the merits of the American approach. We visited a representative group of American private utilities and the relevant utility commissions in the autumn of 1984 and subsequently published the most comprehensive account of it which, up to that time, existed in this country.

The utilities were unanimous in their view that the regulatory system in the States inhibited investment in large capital projects. That is why no new nuclear stations and no large coal or oil-fired stations have been ordered for the last decade or so. The utilities still regard large generating units as being the most economic, but were not prepared to take the financial risks arising from the operation of their regulatory system.

A basic weakness in the system is that it has become unclear as to who is responsible for ensuring that there is enough electricity — the utilities or the commissioners. Nowhere did we find that critical ambiguity satisfactorily resolved.

We also found that "shadow management" had become an increasing problem. That is to say,

the utility commissioners were increasingly second-guessing the management of the utilities after they had had to take critical decisions.

It is true there are great varieties in practice in different parts of the US and what I have said is only a generalisation. It is also true that there are some excellent features of the American system, but they are not the point of this letter.

Detailed regulation of the massive electricity supply industry in this country (there is no equivalent in the US) would be a monstrosity. It would mean there would be a massive bureaucratic machine effectively taking key management decisions without any responsibility for management itself, or any competence in that field, and while doubtless Parliament would change the rules from time to time, for all practical purposes the regulatory machine would not be answerable to anyone.

I agree that regulating a privatised electricity industry in this country is a dauntingly difficult thing to get right, if it can be got right at all. That is the dilemma which the Government has brought upon itself by deciding to privatise the industry first, before determining whether an adequate regulatory regime could be devised beforehand.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN LYONS,
General Secretary,
Engineers' and Managers' Association,
Station House,
Fox Lane North,
Chertsey, Surrey,
April 22.

Recasting Nato

From Mr Frank Allauin

Sir, Your leader of April 25 comments on the Thatcher Government's decision to postpone all NATO talks until Denmark has agreed to help to "concentrate Danish minds" on the issue. This appears to many of us as a slight case of blackmail.

"The defence of Denmark means almost as much to the rest of Europe as it does to the Danes themselves," you state. It is impossible to defend Denmark — or Europe — with nuclear weapons. It is as ridiculous as preparing to defend one's home against a burglar with an atom bomb. Goodbye burglar, householder and home as well. That's what many Danes are thinking.

NATO plans for reinforcement of Denmark in wartime would have to be scrapped if they refused nuclear armed ships, your editorial continues. And about time. There have been great and hopeful changes in the last three years. The INF (intermediate-range nuclear forces) treaty has been signed in Washington. Major cuts in inter-continental nuclear are now under negotiation. NATO has maintained its policy for 30 years

without recasting or even reconsideration.

It is time it did change. Views of Soviet superiority in military strength have altered. The American Chiefs of Staff now hold that there is approximate equality. Mr Gorbachev has proposed that there should be symmetrical reduction, with his country coming down to the US level in any category of arms in which it was superior, with the US similarly reducing to the Soviet level in those where they had greater strength.

What, I suggest, is really alarming NATO is the fear that present East-West talks might succeed, thereby removing the whole rationale for the colossal dangerous and costly military preparations by both sides.

The Danish Prime Minister has called an election on the issue. In a similar situation Dr Lange courageously stood by his pledge — and won the subsequent New Zealand general election by a bigger majority. Yours sincerely,
FRANK ALLAUIN
(Vice-President, CND),
1 South Drive,
Manchester,
April 25.

Archbishop's visit

From Bishop Rastineaux

Sir, In your excellent obituary of Archbishop Ramsey (April 25) you are mistaken in saying that his visit to Pope Paul in March, 1966, was without precedent since the Reformation.

When I had an audience with Pope John in June, 1960, he told me that he had just received a letter from Archbishop Fisher suggesting that he would like to visit him in Rome, which he actually did on December 2 of the same year.

Some years later I met Archbishop Fisher at Sherborne, and he spoke with enthusiasm of his pleasure at having been the first Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury to talk to the Pope.

Yours sincerely,
CYRIL RESTIEAUX,
Stoodley Knowle,
Antony's Cove Road,
Torquay, Devon,
April 25.

Order of service

From the Reverend B. T. Croft

Sir, Today I had an excellent bar lunch at the King's Arms in Oxford, with Alan Coren's diary piece about his return visit there (April 20) in mind. I am glad to record that the ancient copy of Crockett's Clerical Directory is still there, among other books in the little snug behind the main bar, but now without its hard back.

There cannot surely be many pubs in England offering this ecclesiastical facility, and still ecclesiastical gossip around me among old-time characters with long-standing university connections.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD T. CROFT,
4 Freeman's Court,
Water Lane, York,
April 23.

Littering up the place

From Mr R. J. Mehta

Sir, Our office driver in Singapore was fined quite heavily for throwing a half-smoked cigarette butt on the street. Having paid the fine (out of an office loan), he gave up not only littering but also smoking — an additional benefit to all concerned.

Is there a lesson in this for us in our otherwise beautiful country? Yours truly,
RAJNIKANT R. MEHTA
(Director, R & R Management Services Ltd),
212A Signal House,
Lyon Road, Harrow, Middlesex,
April 22.

Hair of the dog — and others

From Mr Richard J. Martin

Sir, Usually the 40 million or so British sheep and their wonderfully diverse fleeces are quite sufficient a pool from which to obtain our raw material. Apart from making our own choice from this woolly cornucopia, we are quite used to sheep farmers, keen to add more value to their produce in this age of agricultural diversification, bringing their own fleeces (often of rare and curious quality) for processing into yarn and cloth.

Lately, however, this diversification has become distinctly more lateral. Mrs de Bunsen's dog hair-spinning friend (April 22) is but one exponent.

In the last week or so we have processed 50lb of dog hair sent airmail by a New York professor (eventually several splendid white rugs will wing their way home-wards), and entertained half-a-dozen rabbit breeders, two llama owners, a goat person and an energetic curly-cow of Shetland ponies who wish us to process their various fibres.

I await next week with interest. Yours sincerely,
R. J. MARTIN,
Cotswold Woollen Weavers,
Filkens, Nr Lechlade,
Gloucestershire,
April 20.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 28 1851

Frederic Skay (1798-1872), son of a Russian merchant in London, rose to become a Fellow of the Royal Society and president of the Royal College of Surgeons. He made many contributions to The Times on a variety of medical subjects.

SKEW ON OPERATIVE SURGERY

... Mr. Skay very properly contends that an appeal to the knife should be the very last resort of the honest and intelligent surgeon. In the case of operations of expediency — operations, that is to say "which are undertaken for the purpose of curing deformity, by the removal or division of sound parts, or of painful diseases, the evil of which does not exceed the level of inconvenience" — our author would seem, indeed, to suggest the propriety of hearing quietly the file we have, rather than fly to others that we know not of. In respect of operations of necessity, he still contends that "the knife should be essentially conservative" in its action. He narrates a story of an eminent man, who, on being told by a medical friend that he had just witnessed "a beautiful operation", looked on his informant with an air of indignation, and replied, "Sir, I do not comprehend what a 'beautiful operation' means. I have never seen the operation to which the term 'beautiful' could apply... Who that has once ventured into the operating theatre of a public hospital upon a field-day, and noted the excited scene there, can have withdrawn from the unwelcome atmosphere without the feeling of having seen no more terrible temptation to human infirmity can present itself than that which follows the upward progress of the successful operator? Well balanced indeed must be the judgment, perfect the sense of honour, unblemished the humanity of the man who, loving true fame, courting honour, and eager for reward, finds himself invited by the applause and commendation of crowds to pursue the open road that directly leads to all. There are times when nature and her creative powers left to themselves, or humbly helped, may do the work of the knife more successfully than the instrument itself, and perform for the patient services wholly out of the power of the operator. The noble work of Mr. Skay is a plea for nature against unnecessary interference. When intervention is essential to the preservation of life, no teacher can commend a bolder practice. But so long as the surgeon approaches the house of life, if not to experiment wantonly upon the sacred structure, at all events chiefly to exhibit his own consummate skill and to render suffering and bodily sorrow subservient to his ambitious desire for *gloria*, Mr. Skay denounces the unrighteous intrusion. Surgical operations of late years have led to distinction and honour — to unexpected elevation and rapid fortune. They have won in a day for the operator more than years of unobtrusive labour could otherwise have gained. An operation has been witnessed as a spectacle, and audiences altogether oblivious of the patient have judged of the merit of their actor by the rapidity of his performance and the staidness of his manner. His triumphs have been recorded on the second hand of the watch. The part of such victories is obvious. Mr. Skay's reference to a timely and congenial hint to the rising generation of medical practitioners, and we thank him sincerely for its utterance.

Enter the Metaphor

From Mrs H. Green

Sir, Mr Bloomer (April 25) should add to his list of Metaphor clouds that will "bubble up" to produce "more organised" showers. Yours faithfully,
H. GREEN,
8 Borrowdale Avenue,
Ipswich, Suffolk,
April 25.

From Mr Jeremy Maas
Sir, A female petrol pump attendant, while filling up my tank, by a quiet country road, glanced up at the scudding clouds and observed: "Nice sunny periods we're having".

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY MAAS,
Hook Farm House,
Ritchingfield,
Nr Horsham, West Sussex,
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Nr Horsham, West Sussex,
April 25.

* Operative Surgery, by Frederic C. Skay, F.R.S. London: Churchill, 1850.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 27: Her Excellency Madame Maria Manuela Margaria was received in audience by The Prince of Wales and The Duke of York, Counsellors of State acting on behalf of The Queen, and presented her Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe to the Court of St. James's.

Her Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to Their Royal Highnesses: Monsieur Antonio Dias (Second Secretary) and Monsieur Antonio de Carvalho Margaria (Attaché).

Sir Patrick Wright (Permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), who had the honour of being received by The Prince of Wales and The Duke of York, was present and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

The Prince Edward, attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer, left Heathrow Airport, London this evening for Australia where His Royal Highness will undertake engagements for the International Award Forum.

The Princess Royal, Assistant to the Worshipful Company of Lincolners, this morning attended a Quarterly Court Meeting and Luncheon of the Company at Armourers' Hall, 81, Coleman Street, London, EC2.

Her Royal Highness, President of the Missions of Seamen, this afternoon visited the Country Town Fair organised by the Rayleigh Branch of the Missions to Seamen in Essex and was received upon arrival by Mr. R. Lane (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Essex).

The Princess Royal, President, the British Olympic Association, this evening attended a reception at the Guildhall, Southampton given by the local group of the British Olympic Appeal.

Her Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Hampshire (Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Scott, Bt).

Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE. April 27: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and The Prince of Wales, Counsellors of State under Her Majesty's Commission, held a Council on behalf of The Queen at 12.40pm.

There were present: The Right Hon John Wakeham, MP (Lord President), The Right Hon Lord Denham (Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms), The Right Hon Peter Walker, MP (Secretary of State for Wales), The Right Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew, MP (Attorney-General), The Right Hon Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss (Lord Justice of Appeal) and The Right Hon Sir Peter Taylor (Lord Justice of Appeal).

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Birthdays today

Mr Ian Beer, Headmaster, Harrow School, 57; Mr Michael Brearley, cricketer, 44; Baroness Carnegy of Lour, 63; Commandant Elizabeth Craig-McFeely, former director, WRNS, 61; Miss Angela Enters, mine artist and dancer, 51; Mrs Odette Halliwell, QC, wartime agent, 76; Mr Justice Leonard, 62; Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor, 64; Sir Hugh Lockhart-Mummery, former Surgeon to the Queen, 70; Baroness Lucas of Crudwell and Dingwall, 69; Mr J.L. Thorn, former Headmaster, Winchester College, 63; Mr Garfield Weston, chairman, Associated British Foods, 61; the Ven Sam Woodhouse, former Archbishop of London, 76.

The Princess of Wales will visit Fairfield School for physically and visually handicapped children, Trinity Avenue, Northampton, at 10.30; and will open the new extension to Saxby Brothers' Factory, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, at 11.45.

The Princess Royal will accept donations on behalf of the Save the Children Fund, Injured Jockeys Fund, Riding for the Disabled Association and the Home Farm Trust at a luncheon at Hill Samuel and Company, 100 Wood Street, at 12.30; as President of the Royal Yachting Association, will attend the annual meeting at the Inn on the Park Hotel at 4.10; and, as Chancellor of London University, will attend the university's Faculty of Medicine dinner at Senate House at 7.15.

The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior of the Order of St John, will attend a service at Grand Priory Church, St John's Gate, EC1, at 10.50.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will attend a dinner given by the Thackeray Society at the Reform Club, Pall Mall, at 7.15.

The Duchess of Kent will attend the final of "Young Musicians of the Year 1988" at Fretzrade Hall, Manchester, at 6.50.

Prince Michael of Kent, President of the Institute of the Motor Industry, will visit the Metropolitan Police Driving School at Hendon at 10.00.

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City of London Freemen's School

Term began on Thursday, April 21, with Mr Mark Paine, BMus, taking up his appointment as head of the junior school. The newly created Corporation Scholarships have been awarded to the following pupils for entry to the junior school in September 1988: Adrian Beidas (Downs); Tom Lumbers (St Giles); Jennifer Evans (Lynton Prep); Catherine French (Seaton House); Pia Enzeli (Lynton Prep). Half Term will be from Friday, May 27, to Monday, June 6. Old Freemen's family day is Sunday, June 19, at Ashted Park. Prize Day is on Friday, July 8, when the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayress will be guests of honour. Term will end on Wednesday, July 13.

His Royal Highness, Joint Patron, the Atlantic College International Bhutan Expedition, this evening met sponsors and members of the Expedition at a reception at the New Zealand High Commission, Haymarket, London, W1.

Major Christopher Lavender was in attendance.

The Princess of Wales this evening attended the Gala Premiere of *Wall Street*, in aid of Aids Crisis Trust, at the Odeon Cinema, Haymarket, London, W1.

Miss Alexandra Loyd and Commander Richard Aylard, RN were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE. April 27: The Duke of Gloucester, patron, ICOMOS UK (International Council on Monuments & Sites, United Kingdom National Committee), this afternoon visited St Paul's Cathedral, London, EC4, and was later present at the Reception at Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, London, EC2.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon opened The Brian and Patricia Gurney Centre, North Parade, Huddersfield and later visited Kirkwood Hospice, Dalton, West Yorkshire.

Her Royal Highness, attended by Mrs Howard Page, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

YORK HOUSE. ST JAMES'S PALACE. April 27: The Duke of Kent, as Grand Master, was present at the Annual Investiture and Grand Festival of the United Grand Lodge of England at Freemasons' Hall, London, WC2.

Sir Richard Buckley was in attendance.

The President of Zambia celebrates his birthday today.

Lady Helen Windsor celebrates her birthday today.

A memorial service for the life and work of the late William Jean Latham, will be held in Marlborough College Chapel on Saturday, May 21, at 2.00 pm.

oggy at Liverpool University and an authority on smallpox, left estate valued at £45,499 net.

Mr Gordon Davidson Nagle, of Wisborough Green, West Sussex, left estate valued at £994,752 net.

Brigadier Ronald Henry Sear, of Chelsea, former chairman and managing director of Port Line, left estate valued at £239,140 net.

Sophia Alice MacNamara, of Beith on Sea, East Sussex, left estate valued at £337,798 net.

Supper

Tonybelle Hall. Dr David Owen, MP, delivered the 1988/89 Lecture, "The Role of the House of Commons in the Modern World", at 7.30 pm. He was accompanied by his wife, Mrs Owen, and their children. The lecture was held in the hall of the House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 1AA.

Reception

Joint Services Expedition to Borup Fiord, Ellesmere Island. Flight Lieutenant K. W. Hankinson, leader of the Joint Services Expedition to Borup Fiord, Ellesmere Island, was host at a reception held at the Naval and Military Club last night. Lord Shackleton, patron, attended.

Meetings

Royal College of General Practitioners. The spring general meeting of the Royal College of General Practitioners was held on Sunday, April 24, 1988 at Cheltenham Race Course. Fellowship was conferred on 31 members of the college and fellowship *ad eundem* was conferred on Professor David Mattingly and Professor Geoffrey Rose.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of The Gordon Highlanders, will open Gordon Barracks, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, at 10.15; will inaugurate the Total Oil/ELF UK Alwyn North Field at a reception at Haddo House, Aberdeen, at 11.35; and, as Patron of the Abbeyfield Society, will visit Viewlands, the Extra Care house of the Abbeyfield Perth Society, at Viewlands Road, Perth, at 2.45.

The Princess of Wales will visit Fairfield School for physically and visually handicapped children, Trinity Avenue, Northampton, at 10.30; and will open the new extension to Saxby Brothers' Factory, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, at 11.45.

The Princess Royal will accept donations on behalf of the Save the Children Fund, Injured Jockeys Fund, Riding for the Disabled Association and the Home Farm Trust at a luncheon at Hill Samuel and Company, 100 Wood Street, at 12.30; as President of the Royal Yachting Association, will attend the annual meeting at the Inn on the Park Hotel at 4.10; and, as Chancellor of London University, will attend the university's Faculty of Medicine dinner at Senate House at 7.15.

The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior of the Order of St John, will attend a service at Grand Priory Church, St John's Gate, EC1, at 10.50.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will attend a dinner given by the Thackeray Society at the Reform Club, Pall Mall, at 7.15.

The Duchess of Kent will attend the final of "Young Musicians of the Year 1988" at Fretzrade Hall, Manchester, at 6.50.

Prince Michael of Kent, President of the Institute of the Motor Industry, will visit the Metropolitan Police Driving School at Hendon at 10.00.

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THE THYSSEN MASTERPIECES

The painting shows Christ at Jacob's well outside Sychar offering the Samaritan woman life-giving water and eternal life, while his disciples emerge from the city looking concerned to find Christ talking to such a woman.



The painting is on show at the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection of Old Masters at the Royal Academy until June 12.

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OBITUARY

MR REGINALD UREN

Pioneer architect from New Zealand

Mr Reginald Uren, who has died in New Zealand at the age of 85, was an architect of New Zealand origin who practised in London for nearly 40 years, and came prominently into the public eye when, in 1933, he won a competition for a new town hall for the borough of Harnsey, which was something of a pioneer among modern municipal buildings.

Completed in 1935, and still standing, it was one of the first examples in Britain of the severe rectangular style of architecture, using large areas of plain brickwork, then popular on the continent and especially associated with the work of the Dutch architect Willem Dudok.

Both Dutch and Swedish influences were noticeable in the detail, but they were well digested and adapted to the local scene.

Uren's success with brick in London was all the more remarkable because most of his work in New Zealand had been in reinforced concrete.

Uren was a cautious modernist, eclectic rather than strikingly original, and sensitive rather than robust.

He later became a partner in Slait Uren and Pike, who specialised in the design of department stores, being responsible for the John Lewis store in Oxford Street (1955) and the extension to Peter Jones in Sloane Square (1966). The firm also designed swimming pools for a number of

London boroughs, in the 1950s and 1960s, as well as a quantity of housing and several factories.

One of Uren's particular interests was relating sculpture to architecture, and the relief by Barbara Hepworth over the flank of the John Lewis building is one outcome of his initiative.

Harnsey town hall was Uren's first building in England, his first important building anywhere, and he was the youngest architect to receive the RIBA medal.

Uren had first trained locally, in New Zealand, winning a prize of £150 for designing the foreshore of his native town before he was 20.

He was ambitious, however, and decided that he must go to England to gain experience. But he had no money to pay for his passage. So he haunted the quays of Wellington for a ship that needed an emergency hand.

His chance came when, just as a cargo steamer was about to cast off for England, the engineer ran down the gangway and called agitatedly for a greaser to replace a man who had deserted. Uren worked his passage in the engine-room.

Reginald Harold Uren, who was of Cornish descent, was born at Petone, North Island, in 1903 and became a RIBA in 1934 and FRIBA in 1952.

In 1967 he retired to his native country.

REAR-ADM DESMOND HOARE

Rear Admiral Desmond Hoare, CB, headmaster of Atlantic College for the first seven years of its existence after it was founded in South Wales in 1962, died at his home in the Irish Republic on April 26. He was 77.

Hoare, a naval design engineer by training, had taken early retirement to head the future college, the first international sixth form boarding school in Britain, and inspired by Dr Kurt Hahn's educational ideals based above all on character training.

The college celebrated its 25th anniversary last October. Hoare held there was no finer educational instrument than the sea, and his particular contribution was the development of the Atlantic College Coast Rescue Services.

With the help of students, aged 16 to 19, he designed, built and trained the Atlantic class inshore lifeboat of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Hoare brought to the college a background of Second World War experience of the Russian convoys, of expeditions in South America, and of Outward Bound training of naval apprentices.

Before joining the Atlantic College venture he had been a prominent figure in boys' clubs, working in the 1950s with the London Federation of Boys Clubs and on the committee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

He coached three Cambridge crews and in 1935 and 1936 went to the assistance of Oxford, who were then nearing the end of a long spell of defeats.

Payne was made a Steward of Henley Regatta in 1938 and elected to the Committee of Management the same year. Payne was awarded the MC for commanding 471 Battery of the 98th Field Regiment during the fierce fighting around Monte Cassino in 1944.

He is survived by his wife, Louise, a son and two daughters.

MR K. M. PAYNE

Cambridge won in record time

Cambridge won in record time. In the same year he was Captain of Leander, leading them to victory in the Grand once again, setting a record which stood for 18 years.

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MR ROGER LAND

DR ROGER LAND

Dr Roger Land, who died suddenly on April 17, at the age of 47, was director of the Agricultural Food Research Council's Animal Physiology and Genetics Research Institute at Roslin, Midlothian, and an internationally acclaimed authority in his field.

After joining the Animal Breeding Research Organization in 1966, he established a new area of animal physiology and genetics. He identified new ways of studying reproductive rates and milk production, which enabled him to recognize in the male the potential merit of his female offspring, as milk producers.

This idea has been widely accepted as a new approach to genetic selection for traits which are traditionally difficult to improve.

Land recognized the value of multiple ovulation and embryo transfer (MOT), as means of increasing rates of genetic improvement in farm animals. He contributed to the development of such schemes, particularly in dairy cattle.

As research director, he also encouraged the new opportunities provided by molecular genetics and gene transfer. Lines of sheep have been created at Edinburgh that secrete clinically useful human protein in their milk.

Land is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters.

MR OSCAR JOSEPH

HEALTH

Smoking behind closed doors

Growing numbers of employers are bowing to pressure from staff and confining smokers to office 'sin bins'. Does it work, and is it legal? Lee Rodwell reports

They call it the sin bin. It is the only place in the Edinburgh offices of Kwik-Fit Holdings where the 60 staff are allowed to indulge in the guilty pleasure of smoking. Not that it is always pleasurable. In fact, according to Tom Farmer, the manager, people can sometimes be seen having a cigarette in the car park because, even with the window open, the sin bin gets so smoky that the smokers cannot stand it. Despite this, both smokers and non-smokers agree that the new policy — introduced at the start of this year — has been a success.

There are no figures showing how many British companies have no-smoking policies of one kind or another, although those that do include Boots, Cambridge University Press, Private Patients Plan, British Telecom and IBM. However, a MORI survey carried out for the Health Education Authority last autumn among 102 personnel directors, randomly selected from *The Times*'s top 1,000 companies in the UK, found that 16 per cent had a formal written policy on smoking, compared with 6 per cent in 1982. A further 25 per cent said they had plans to implement a formal policy within two to three years, or had a policy under consideration; and a third of respondents, while having no formal policy, had some restrictions on smoking.

At present, restrictions on smokers in Britain are a lot less rigorous than on their counterparts elsewhere (in New York, for instance, one of the most draconian pieces of anti-smoking legislation in the United States came into force this month with stringent rules about smoking on public transport and in public buildings, cabs and restaurants). Yet since the Froggatt Report concluded earlier this year that there was a link between passive smoking and lung cancer, there seems little doubt that non-smokers will become increasingly vocal and more and more companies will introduce "sin bins" or ban smoking from specific areas of work.

Dorothy Mills, aged 23, who works in the computer room at Kwik-Fit, was in favour of the sin bin: she is one of the two non-smokers in a department of eight. "I work in the middle of the room and I used to get smoke from all angles. By late

afternoon there was a real build-up. Sometimes I'd say it was pretty bad and they'd open a window, but I was glad when the policy was introduced. The atmosphere is so much better."

This has proved to be true in more than one sense. Another non-smoker, Lex Yuill, 29, who works in credit control, says: "We are about half and half in our office. But the more we created about their smoking, the more they resolved to keep on. It hardened attitudes. For the first two or three weeks after the ban, things were a bit difficult. They were on edge but the non-smokers backed off, let them say their piece and didn't rub it in. Now I'd say the majority of smokers wouldn't want to go back to smoking at their desks."

Lynda Hindle, 22, who works in the customer services department and has been smoking about 15 cigarettes a day since she was 16, supports this view. "It can be difficult at times. This is a busy office and when the phones are going that's when you want a cigarette. It's not very nice having to go down to the sin bin — it's full of smoke and often freezing because the windows are open. But it's got to be better for everyone. I choose to smoke — they don't. They shouldn't have to inhale my smoke."

The customer services manager, Derek May, was probably the heaviest smoker in the building — he started 20 years ago and at 36 was getting through more than 40 cigarettes a day, with at least 25 of those at work. He voted against the change and says: "I was annoyed when it was announced. It felt as though I was being dictated to but I had to reflect on the situation — I hold a responsible position in the company — and I had to accept it. I never thought about leaving."

"Oddly enough, the first couple of weeks weren't too bad. It's harder now. I've actually cut my intake to about 15 a day and I don't smoke that much at home. But I have noticed I smoke more if I go out for a meal or down to the pub."

Frank Wild, who is in his fifties and works in sales, was involved in carrying out the initial survey about whether or not to ban smoking. The vote was 63 per cent for a ban, 37 per cent against. When the ban was introduced on January 1, he was smoking more than 20 cigarettes a day. Now he is down to about six. "I voted for a non-smoking office. I was



Where there's smoke: the Kwik-Fit sin bin, introduced with a promise of £1,000 for charity if the rules were kept

'It's not very nice having to go down to the sin bin — it's full of smoke. But I choose to smoke — they don't'

working with two non-smokers who made it obvious they didn't like my smoking and I thought it might help me stop," he says. "It's annoying to have to go downstairs — so you get used to going for longer periods without. One thing that has happened is that I light up when I leave work. I never used to smoke in the car — I hate cars that smell of smoke — but now I feel I deserve a cigarette."

Nobody left the company as a result of the new ruling, but has productivity

suffered, with smokers away from their desks from time to time? Farmer believes not. "We work on a daily or weekly basis here and if people have to work late to finish something, then they do. So it hasn't made any difference."

To encourage smokers to stick to the new rules, Kwik-Fit offered to donate £100 a week to a local charity for the first 10 weeks of the new policy, providing no one smoked where they should not; £1,000 was duly sent off.

But if Kwik-Fit believes in the carrot, it could be argued that Ashford Borough Council believes in the stick. Last November, after a ballot of the 350-strong workforce and having given three months' notice of the change, it amended contracts of employment to implement a total non-smoking ban apart from in one section of the staff room.

So far none of the staff has left as a result of the ban and the deputy chief personnel officer, John Styles, says that

they have not yet had to give anyone a verbal warning, but "unless you are prepared to back a policy it will fairly quickly be challenged. It would be sad if we had to sack someone for smoking at work but, after all, the majority of people wished to have this policy," he says.

"When we advertise we make it plain we have a no-smoking policy and if anything this has had a positive effect on recruitment. There has been so much general interest we ran a seminar last week on how to introduce a no-smoking policy, to which delegates from health and local authorities and the private sector came."

If an employer wants to introduce a no-smoking policy there is little a smoker can do about it, providing certain steps are followed, says Gillian Howard, a London lawyer and industrial relations consultant who has written a paper summarizing the legal issues of smoking at work.

In 1985 a smoker, Mrs Watson, returned from sick leave to her job as secretary for a firm of insurance brokers to discover that, along with a move to new offices, a no-smoking rule had been introduced. She was told that if she did not comply with the rule her employment would be terminated. But the Birmingham Industrial Tribunal ruled that the company had acted unreasonably and was in breach of the original contract of employment.

However, more recently, a Southampton industrial tribunal ruled that another smoker, Mr Rogers, could not claim constructive dismissal because of the introduction of a no-smoking policy at the microfilm duplicator firm where he worked. Even though there was no negotiation with the workforce, the tribunal concluded that because the employer discussed the smoking ban for more than a year before the policy came into force, and gave four months' notice of changing the works rules, it had acted reasonably.

Gillian Howard advises employers to proceed in a "sensible, lawful way" working through the consultation and educational processes, and giving reasonable notice of a change.

However, she believes many employers will go on maintaining the status quo because Froggatt stopped short of recommending legislation, although she argues that current laws could be used effectively. "For instance, given the evidence about passive smoking, if an environmental health officer went into a smoke-flogged office he could issue an improvement notice under the present Health and Safety at Work Act advising the employer to ban smoking or have restricted areas."

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Slips that endanger surgeons

The recent death from Aids of Dr David Collings, the surgeon who had practised in Zimbabwe, has drawn attention to the possible hazards to medical staff operating on infected patients. News reports of his death disclosed that surgeons working in Africa did not always wear gloves, and that the same gloves were sometimes worn twice. A well known surgeon recently told *The Times* that he pricked his finger while operating at least once on any day when he was in the theatre.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

However, he may be as optimistic as he is gifted. A recent experiment by a surgical team at the Leicester Royal Infirmary demonstrated that the overall perforation rate of gloves used during surgery was 37.5 per cent per operation. Checks had shown that all

the control gloves were perforation-free when examined before use. Not all members of the operating team are likely to suffer to the same extent, however. The surgeon and his theatre nurse had most holes in their gloves — 48 and 42 per cent respectively, the

latter from handling sharp instruments. The first and second assistants to the surgeons fared better. Most of the perforations went unnoticed by the team; the surgeon was aware of only 38 per cent of the times he pricked himself, the nurse noticed 9.8 per cent of incidents which perforated her gloves, the first assistant was aware of 41 per cent, and the second assistant never noticed when he was pricked at all.

Fact and fiction

Dr Somerset Maugham described how actors and actresses tend to assume in real life the fictional characters they play on the stage; but seldom can anybody have done it as completely as Sharon Gless, the actress who plays the fair-haired American police sergeant in *Cagney and Lacey*. The film character is an alcoholic who is fighting her addiction; now actress Gless has been admitted to a clinic to be dried out after taking to the bottle, reportedly following a row with her lover.

Women have a greater risk than men of developing cirrhosis, and if they stop drinking the damage is less likely to regress; but as the disease is more common in men most of the research has been done on the male liver. Recent studies at the Bupa Medical Centre in London by Dr Carolyn Ritchie, Dr Ian Kelsey Fry and Miss Sharon Allaway, with Dr Gil Thompson from the Hammersmith Hospital, used the CAT scan in a sophisticated way to measure the degree of fatty infiltration of the liver. They showed that the standard liver function blood tests are not an accurate guide to the amount of liver damage, or the likelihood of developing cirrhosis.

Their research has demonstrated that a quarter of men who take eight or more units of alcohol a day (one unit equals half a pint, a glass of wine, or a pub tot of spirits), will develop severe fatty degeneration of the liver; between 10 and 30 per cent of these will progress to full cirrhosis of the liver. The greater the fatty infiltration, the greater the chance of cirrhosis. Heavy drinkers who have been told that they have normal liver function tests can no longer be certain that they are not in danger of developing cirrhosis, and will be well advised to seek out this specialized form of liver scan.

Ulcer optimism

Lord Tonsypandy, formerly the Speaker George Thomas, counters chronic bronchitis, the Welsh disease, by taking a holiday in the sun during the worst of the winter weather. But this year cheating the season did not work its usual magic, as he started to suffer increasingly severe abdominal pain until eventually he needed to seek medical help while abroad. The surgeon diagnosed a duodenal ulcer, which he told his team was the largest he had ever seen in his surgical career. Tonsypandy was prescribed an H2 antagonist and barely a month later the ulcer had disappeared without trace.

His troubles may not be over, however, for there is a strong statistical likelihood that his ulcer will relapse. Research has shown that the H2 antagonists are splendid at healing an ulcer but that within 12 months the majority, unless a maintenance dose of the drug is taken regularly, recur. Dr Paul Miller's team working in Manchester in 1981 showed that 85 per cent of duodenal ulcers treated with Tagamet (an H2 antagonist) relapse. In 1986 four doctors in Leeds and Dundee noted a 78 per cent recurrence rate, and at about the same time a paper published by Dr Frank Lee showed that in his patients treated with the other commonly prescribed H2 antagonist, Zantac, there was an 89 per cent recurrence rate.

A treatment less well publicized is De-Nol, a bismuth salt, tripotassium dicitrate bismuthate, which cuts the recurrence rate by over half. A possible explanation for the success of De-Nol is that this colloidal bismuth salt has an anti-bacterial action, for there is increasing evidence that persistent or recurrent peptic ulceration may be due in part to infection of the mucosa by an organism *Campylobacter pylori*, not to be confused with *Campylobacter jejuni*, a cause of food poisoning. The colloidal bismuth does not owe its efficiency to its antibacterial action alone, for it also exerts a cytoprotective

effect by encouraging prostaglandin production, and provides local physical protection by binding efficiently to the ulcer crater. The formulation of the salt is all-important; initially in order to be effective it had to be taken in liquid form, but this and a later chewable tablet produced staining of the teeth and tongue. Recently the manufacturers have introduced tablets which can be swallowed, and do not stain the mouth. Research workers are now trying to find an antibiotic which will attack *Campylobacter pylori*, but again formulation will be critical; so far the most encouraging results have been obtained with special preparations of amoxycillin.

Rural invasion

Foxes travel along railway lines and colonize suburban gardens; kestrels follow the motorways into the towns where they are now happy establishing themselves on the edges of tower blocks. But not all the migration is one way. Tinea is the fungus which gives rise to the twin lists of foot and groin rot, as they were known to the troop sergeants during basic training, or athlete's foot and dikhobitch, as they were referred to in more refined circles. It also migrates; but it is the town variety, *Trichophyton rubrum*, which has been carried by Londoners along the M5 motorway and is now eroding the hold the rural species of tinea.

Trichophyton verrucosum and *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*, have on the groins, between the toes, and under the toenails of the Somerset locals. Pulse magazine reports that Brian Greatorex of the Taunton public health laboratory has been studying tinea for more than 30 years. He has now looked at nearly 7,000 specimens and is not at all pleased with the invasion. *T. rubrum* is a very persistent organism; an infection caused by it can take months to cure, whereas its country cousins, although they cause a severe local reaction, are easily eradicated by any of the usual fungicidal creams.



Cause for concern? Dr Alistair Hay displays two widely-sold garden products

The use of chemicals as clandestine weapons has been outlawed in Britain since the 1950s. But on the shelves of hardware stores and garden centres you may still find weedkillers that contain 245T and its contaminant dioxin, responsible for the devastation wrought by Agent Orange in Vietnam. And the combination of 245T and 24D used to scorch the Ho Chi Minh Trail can be found in some bramble and brushwood killers, while certain insecticides use organo-phosphorus compounds similar to those employed in the German nerve gas experiments of the 1930s.

Not so long ago a man died of a muscle-wasting, motor neurone disease which his doctors traced back to the day he sprayed two cans of a well-known brand of ant killer in a poorly ventilated ladder. The label warned against breathing the spray, and the man had inhaled an exceedingly large quantity of the pesticide, but according to one of the team of neurologists who treated him at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Dr Adrian Williams, further medical investigation could be needed into the potential long-term effects of exposure to smaller doses of such chemicals. "It's our job as medics — I'm not saying it's up to the insecticide manufacturers — to try to discover whether there's any exposure in common to the patients who come to us with this type of disease," he says.

Up the garden path?

Before Bank holiday gardening fever sets in, take a cautious look in your shed

have been developed to target the enemy more specifically to destroy pests without any disastrous effect on the rest of the food chain. Nippon, the ant killer implicated in reports of the death of the man in Birmingham from motor neurone disease symptoms, contained permethrin, one of the pyrethroids, and chlordane, which is a growing lobby in the United States is fighting to ban because of a possible cancer link. The formula has since been altered — although not because of the incident, Nippon's manufacturer Synchemicals stresses that "in the case of most ant or wasp killers you'd have to absorb about a litre for a lethal dose". Chemical industry spokesmen are quick to point out their good track record, and the responsibility and reliability of their products; environmental purists are equally adamant that nature has her own sensible ways of dealing with pests, and that chemical

meddling is not only unnecessary but dangerous. Dr Edward Spiers of Leeds University, author of a major book on chemical warfare, is one of those who holds the middle ground, a wary compromise. He cheerfully admits that "my own weed killer contains 24D which was used in Agent Orange, but I handle it carefully, always with rubber gloves, and dilute it well".

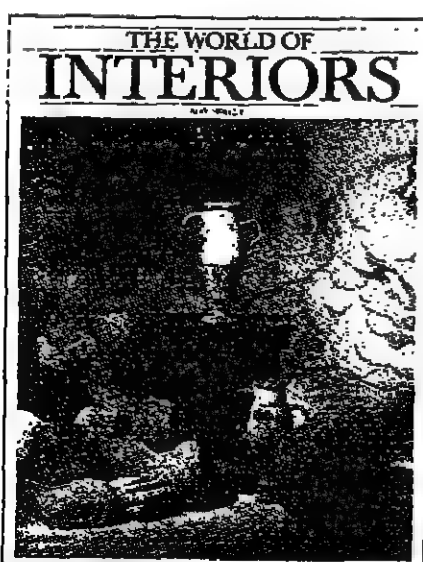
Dr Alistair Hay of the Department of Chemical Pathology at Leeds University, an internationally acknowledged expert in the field, notes that "the poison paracetamol — lethal when ingested, but not so dangerous in cases of skin contact — is used in Weedol and other brands here although it is banned or restricted in some countries".

But Dr Peter Slade, head of product stewardship for ICI, pooh-poohs concern about paracetamol, if it is used properly, and counters: "We are working to restore its registration in Germany, so the only country in which paracetamol is fully banned is Sweden." Despite this paracetamol has disappeared from many products. Hay is primarily interested in the health and safety of workers in the chemical and agricultural industry, and seeing that "vital information is passed down which will allow them to make an informed choice and take the necessary precautions".

Slade says that ICI is experimenting with symbols and illustrations that will be clear even to the illiterate. He stresses that under the terms of the new Food and Environment Protection Act, active ingredients must by law be displayed in advertisements. Packaging is also important, Hay says; it should be designed so that if a solution requires mixing or diluting none of it need touch the hands. He is pleased to report that "market leaders such as Monsanto are improving the design of the packaging so that the dispensing is done into a sealed unit rather than a cap".

Victoria McKee
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The first word in decoration



Toulouse Monsieur Rigot implores you to sit on the cat
New York Lee Mindel needs six shades of white to colour the hall
Haarlem Globe trotter pumps half-a-million volts into Holland
London André de Cacqueray transfers petit France to South Ken
Andalusia Jaime Parlade popularises his library ceiling

The last word in taste

252 pages in the May issue; on sale April 28

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100

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1448.9 (+17.6)
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1806.7 (+5.9)
Bargains
2884 (2683)
USM (Datastream)
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THE POUND

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1.8760 (+0.0015)
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link to
Stockwatch

Stockwatch, the computerized telephone share prices service launched jointly by The Times and Citycall, has become the first such service to offer a comprehensive coverage of the unit trust and bonds market.

From this week, the service offers bid and offer prices for over 7,000 unit trusts, offshore funds, insurance and pension bonds - the first time such a service has been made available.

Information on the service, including an application form and details of a free membership offer to readers of The Times can be found on page 24.

The competition associated with the introduction of the service is now into its second week. Each week, 10,000 of premium bonds will be given by Equitable Life to a reader who has identified a "mystery voice" from the business world.

Stockwatch attracted more than 10,000 members in its first week, and is already proving a boon to investors who have, for instance, been able to follow the minute-by-minute movements of fast-moving shares, such as Cadbury Schweppes and Rowntree.

Stockwatch, page 24

Fosco jumps

Fosco Mines, the specialty chemicals group, reported pre-tax profits of £25.4 million to £35.2 million in the year to the end of December. Earnings per share advanced to 21.5p (14.2p). A final dividend of 7.1p was declared, making 10.6p for the year (9.2p).

Temps, page 24

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones 2046.25 (+1.49)
Nikkei Average 27191.87 (+54.80)
Hong Kong
Hang Seng 2592.07 (+48.05)
Australian 3282.00 (+1.00)
Sydney 4443.3 (+2.2)
Frankfurt
Dax-Index 1382.5 (+1.4)
Brussels
C20 4663.4 (+7.0)
Paris CAC 3120.0 (+4.1)
Zurich SMI 451.8 (+3.4)
London
FT-SE 100 1806.7 (+5.9)
FT-SE 250 1202.13 (+3.9)
FT-SE 100 1806.7 (+5.9)
FT-SE 250 1202.13 (+3.9)
FT-SE 100 1806.7 (+5.9)
FT-SE 250 1202.13 (+3.9)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RUSSE
Cadbury Schwp 382p (+31p)
Allied Lyons 433p (+21p)
Coca Cola 55p (+10p)
Guinness 315p (+17p)
Lloyds 285p (+10p)
Harrison Crosfield 625p (+23p)
Henderson Adm 685p (+10p)
Unigate 277p (+11p)
Hawker Siddeley 485p (+21p)
Reed & Colman 457p (+14p)
Thorn EMI 825p (+19p)
Diem 282p (+11p)
Tate & Lyle 785p (+11p)
C & E Health 400p (+14p)
FALLS
Brown Shipley 380p (-20p)
Swire 258p (-15p)
FR Group 234p (-18p)
Closing prices
Page 28

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Rate 8%
3-month interbank 8.9-9.4%
3-month eligible bills 7.75-7.76%
buying rates
US Prime Rate 8.4%
Federal Funds 6.4%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.90-5.88%
30-year bonds 98.17-98.18%
CURRENCIES
London New York
£/\$ 1.8760
£/DM 1.4320
£/Sfr 2.0209
£/FF 16.7835
£/Yen 224.87
£/Deuts 162.82
£/Ecu 16.0512
SDR 16.735588
GOLD
London Fixing
AM \$449.10 pm \$450.30
close \$451.50-452.00 (\$240.75-241.25)
New York
Comex \$451.70-452.20
NORTH SEA OIL
Brent (June) pm \$17.50bbp (\$17.27)
Dutchies latest trading price
Rounded 24 Wall Street 27
Stockwatch 24 Money Markets 28
Temps 24 Foreign Exch 28
Comment 25 Unit Trusts 28
City Diary 25 Commodities 28
Traded Opt 26 USM Prices 28
Stock Market 27 Share Prices 29

Suchard lifts
its Rowntree
stake to 16%

The tug of war for Rowntree, the beleaguered confectionery group, intensified yesterday when Jacobs Suchard, the Swiss group, declared it had bought 2.5 million more shares to lift its stake to 16 per cent - in the face of the £2.1 billion takeover bid by its big rival Nestlé.

The stock market viewed the buying spree by Suchard as a means of frustrating the Nestlé offer - and strengthening its own hand in case it decides to launch a full-scale bid itself.

Suchard, which picked up 14.9 per cent in a dawn raid two weeks ago, announced it had added to its holding on Tuesday, at a probable cost of about £20 million. The heavy turnover in the shares of Rowntree yesterday - about 30 million - almost certainly indicated still further buying by Suchard. Last night Rowntree shares closed 2p lower at 926p - still well above the 890p cash offer from Nestlé.

Suchard was thought to have been buying at prices of close to 900p, against the 630p limit it set when it acquired its initial holding. Suchard had said it would take its stake to

By Cliff Feltham

25 per cent but would not make a full bid unless someone else moved in.

This restriction, said Suchard in a brief statement yesterday, had now lapsed and it was considering all its options open.

Meanwhile, Rowntree raked in just over £100 million from the sale of its Tom's Foods snacks business in the US, as pressure mounted for the Monopolies and Mergers

Commission to step in and investigate the hostile bid from Nestlé.

Rowntree, the York-based manufacturer of Kit Kat and Polo, completed its exit from the snack food sector by selling Tom's Food - which it acquired four years ago for £140 million - to the management for \$200 million (£111 million), a figure which some analysts described as on the low side.

However, Mr Kenneth Dixon, the Rowntree chairman, said the deal had been a sound investment for the company.

Last night Mr Dixon was locked in talks with his advisers, Schroders, the merchant bank and Cazenove, the stockbroker, to hammer out a defence strategy against Nestlé.

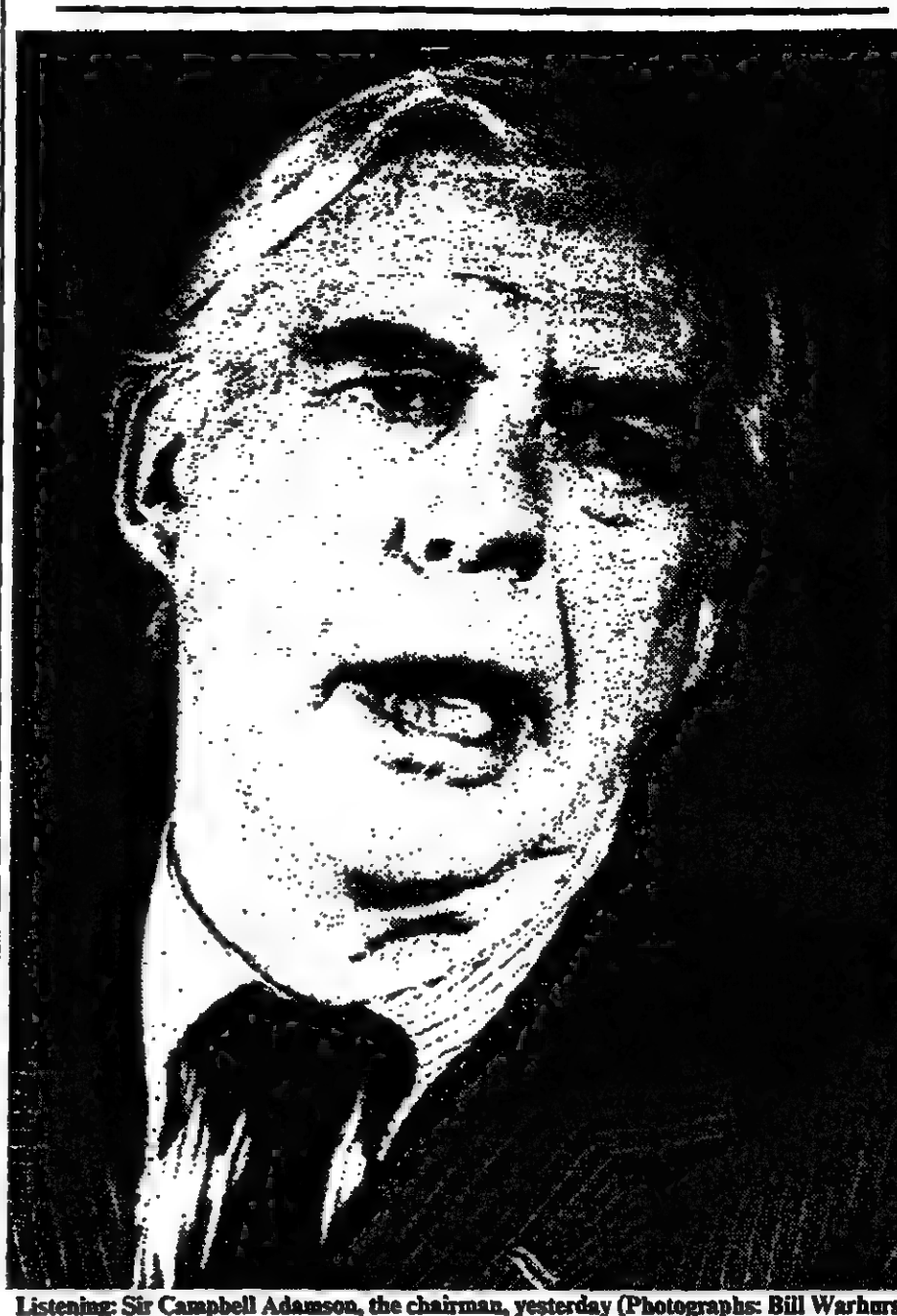
All the signs were pointing to a massive lobbying campaign in Whitehall as MPs in constituencies most closely affected by the takeover of the company urged the Monopolies Commission to step in.

Mr Douglas Henderson, Labour MP for Newcastle upon Tyne North, put down an early day motion in the House of Commons, pointing out that it would be impossible under Swiss law for a British chocolate company to take over a Swiss-based manufacturer.

"We believe the 12,000 jobs in the company are threatened by the takeover bid and want the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to refer the bid to the Monopolies Commission," he said.

The Office of Fair Trading automatically looks at any takeover bid involving assets of more than £30 million and a market share of 25 per cent. The Nestlé bid for Rowntree falls within the scope of both provisions.

Rebellion of the small investors



Listening: Sir Campbell Adamson, the chairman, yesterday (Photographs: Bill Warhurst)

Opposition grows
to Abbey flotation

The Abbey National Building Society is facing substantial opposition from some investors to its plans to become a public limited company.

This became apparent at yesterday's annual meeting, attended by about 800 of the society's members, including Mr Alexander Sandison, who hoped to lead a mutiny against the flotation.

It was the question of money, in particular the safety of investments after conversion, returns on savings accounts, and what the directors might gain through a sale to the public, which concerned the investors.

Sir Campbell Adamson, the chairman, sought to allay their fears, stating that savings would not be converted to shares, that the whole point of conversion was that the society should remain competitive and that directors were

not proposing the change for personal gain.

Mr Sandison, who has now joined Abbey Members Against Flotation, a group formed in the past 10 days, protested that "we are the owners of this society. You as directors are there to run the society within the rules which we lay down".

Mr Andrew Lewis, secretary of the anti-flotation group, accused Sir Campbell of attempting to stifle debate on the issue and asked whether Sir Campbell thought the views of those opposed to conversion were "beneath contempt".

Sir Campbell replied: "Of course there is an argument on the other sides, there always is."

The board was looking to the long term, and considered conversion was the best route to having "a healthy existence



Alexander Sandison: Protest at plans

if an existence at all in 20 or 30 years' time."

Mr Alec Leaver, a former official of the actors' union, Equity, chairman of the anti-flotation group, called for an extraordinary meeting to debate the issue.

Lloyd's
rejects
Neill
guideline

By Allison Eadie

A working party of Lloyd's insurance market has turned down one of the key recommendations of the government-backed Neill committee. It is the first substantive Neill recommendation to be rejected.

The committee headed by Sir Patrick Neill QC called for managing agents to share in the losses as well as the profits of their syndicates. But an internal Lloyd's working party has turned down the proposal.

The Neill report advocated that a fair and efficient form of deficit clause should be made mandatory. This would mean names could offset the profit commission payable to agents on syndicates in profit against their losses on other syndicates. A small number of Lloyd's agents already operate deficit clauses, but the majority are strongly opposed to mandatory deficit clauses.

The working party, chaired by Mr Edward Walker-Armitt, a nominated member of Lloyd's and partner at Herbert Smith, the firm of solicitors, has come down against a mandatory deficit clause for managing agents, who run syndicates, but recommended it for members' agents, who place names on syndicates but do not run them.

The working party has left the option of introducing a deficit clause up to the managing agent, because it believes mandatory clauses could just increase charges to names and could encourage managing agents to try and fudge their results. It also believes its revised agency structure, showing the separation of function between members' and managing agents, makes the need for a deficit clause less pressing.

The idea of a deficit clause has a long history and was advocated in the Cromer report of 1969 and the Fisher report of 1980. The Neill report admitted that the introduction of a deficit clause would add a measure of complexity to the calculation of profit commission, but added that "the principle that the remuneration of managing agents, and perhaps also members' agents, should reflect the total result for which they were responsible rather than the profitable segments of it seems unacceptable."

A rejection of the idea of deficit clauses will be viewed with dismay by many names, who regarded the deficit clause as one of Neill's most important recommendations.

The rejection could also create difficulties for Lloyd's with the Government, which gave Lloyd's two years from January last, year to implement the 70 recommendations in the Neill report.

Cadbury shares soar as £3bn
General Cinema bid looms

Cadbury Schweppes shares soared yesterday amid speculation that a £3 billion takeover bid loomed closer from General Cinema, the American group which owns 17.7 per cent of the confectionery group.

Only hours after the Swiss company Nestlé, the world's biggest food group, had mounted a hostile £2.1 billion takeover bid for Rowntree, General Cinema told the US authorities it was no longer a passive investor, and effectively reserved the right to launch a bid, buy more shares, or sell to a third party.

Shares in Cadbury shot up 56p to 387p, valuing the group, which manufactures nearly a third of the chocolate eaten in Britain and a fifth of the soft drinks, at more than £2.25 billion. By the close, they had drifted back to 363p, with 31 million shares having changed hands.

By Michael Tate

Cadbury described General Cinema's statement as "too ambiguous to be capable of clear interpretation".

Analysts believe General Cinema's declaration was left deliberately vague, and speculated that the motive of Mr Dick Smith, the chairman, was to put Cadbury "into play".

The Americans, who first bought into Cadbury in January 1987, but snapped up most of their shares in November after the stock market crash, are sitting on a profit of £157 million at last night's 363p closing price. Their average buying price is thought to be about 210p, and their stake is worth some £375 million.

General Cinema, which used mainly to operate a network of theatres in the US, but now makes most of its money from bottling Pepsi-Cola, would like to get its hands on Cadbury's North

American drinks operations.

But these represent only a small slice of the whole. Analysts value the activities, which include Canada Dry and Sunlight, at £250 million.

A bid for Cadbury would dwarf even the Nestlé-bid for Rowntree. Cadbury would be reasonably confident of seeing off anything under £3 billion.

Cadbury's soft drinks operations were transformed last year when it formed a joint company with Coca-Cola to handle all their respective drinks operations in the UK.

Last month, the group unveiled a 35 per cent increase in pretax profits for 1987 at £176.1 million, on a worldwide turnover of £2.03 billion.

Under US regulations, General Cinema was permitted to raise its stake in Cadbury to 25 per cent, but had to notify the authorities of any change in the nature of its intentions.

Non-Opec
producers
offer cuts

(Reuters) - A 5 per cent cut in oil exports was offered by non-Opec producers yesterday, but only if members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agree to a similar cut.

Mr James Audu, Opec's spokesman, speaking after seven non-Opec producers met six leading Opec members, said the seven recognized a response would come only after today's consultative conference of all Opec members.

The non-Opec producers proposed to cut their exports by 5 per cent during the crucial remainder of the second quarter - May and June.

Mr Rilwanu Lukman, the Opec president, hailed talks between Opec and seven outside producers as "a watershed".

Opec meeting, page 26

Gilt auctions find
favour with Bank

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Bank of England is to make gilt auctions a permanent part of the funding process, following last year's experiment.

The Bank announced two auctions for the current financial year, each for up to £1 billion of stock. The first auction will be held in July or August this year, and the second in January or February.

The Bank's keenness, following last year's poorly received experiment, caused surprise. It is seen as consistent with the Bank's desire to keep its options open.

In using auctions when the need for sales is not great, the Bank may be hoping to develop a track record for them so that they can be employed at a time when higher public borrowing adds to pressure for

Guinness
report in
Commons

By Our City Staff

A report in The Times about the involvement of Guinness in the takeover battle between Scottish & Newcastle Breweries and Matthew Brown were raised in the House of Commons yesterday.

The Times reported that Guinness has been a secret supporter of the target company Matthew Brown, buying up 1 per cent of the company in the name of an apparently unconnected third party in December 1985.

Mr John Marshall, the Conservative member for Hendon South, who raised the issue, was told by Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, that it "would not be appropriate for me to comment on an on-going DTI investigation."

Barclays's £921m rights issue backed

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Barclays Bank yesterday comfortably secured a vote in favour of its mammoth £921 million deep discount rights issue at a packed extraordinary meeting in spite of opposition from institutional and small shareholders.

No wholesale revolt against the issue materialized, with no more than four large institutional shareholders objecting. A far larger number showed their lack of support for the share issue by simply abstaining. But the 11 million proxy votes cast in opposition to the rights issue - more than 10 per cent of all the proxy votes cast - was much larger than is normal on such votes.

Mr John Quinton, the chairman, did not however have to use the 95 million proxy votes cast in favour of increasing the bank's issued share capital.

The only institution to voice public criticism was the Co-operative Insurance Society which holds 0.05 per cent of Barclays's shares. A representative said that the society was not against the rights

issue itself but against the deep discount method of issue. Other institutions who privately objected to the rights issue opted not to oppose the bank publicly to avoid embarrassing management.

For example, Scottish Widows, the life assurance group which holds about 1 per cent of the shares, was against the issue but chose to abstain.

The meeting, which had attracted many disgruntled small shareholders, was so packed that the audience overflowed into a second room and filled the lobby of the Barclays building in which it was held. Several times it dissolved in

hilarity as repeated - and often silliness - interjections by shareholders frequently disrupted the proceedings.

One longstanding private shareholder told the bank's board that the deep discount on the issue was "wicked". "There should be some legal means to stop it," he said. The previous Barclays's share issue in 1983 had cost his family thousands of pounds in extra capital gains tax.

Several shareholders sought assurance that the bank would use the money wisely and not throw it away on bad loans as it had done in Latin America

Quinton said that the bank had stronger credit controls on its lending and repeated the argument that the bank needed so much new capital to maintain its momentum of growth worldwide. He defended the deep discount on the grounds that it saved the bank £20 million in underwriting costs.

Mr Quinton added that the Stock Exchange had told that bank that it was not conducting a formal inquiry into the way information on the share issue leaked on to the market a day before the official announcement.

Before the proceedings a lone protestor parked outside the bank's headquarters in a van draped with a banner complaining about his treatment by a branch manager. During the meeting, shareholders baffled by a particularly complex resolution were told by Mr Quinton: "I will give you time to read, if not to understand, the resolution."

DIAMOND SERVICE

Who HAS THE MOST WEEKDAY FLIGHTS TO AMSTERDAM?

It isn't British Airways. It isn't KLM. It's British Midland.

We have 16 flights between Heathrow and Amsterdam every working day, including the first one in and the last one out. Which means our schedule will fit your schedule.

And every BM flight to and from Amsterdam is Diamond Service. Which means you get the full Business Class treatment.

If you fly to Amsterdam, you know which airline means business.

HEATHROW - AMSTERDAM - HEATHROW - HEATHROW	HEATHROW - AMSTERDAM - HEATHROW - HEATHROW	HEATHROW - AMSTERDAM - HEATHROW - HEATHROW	HEATHROW - AMSTERDAM - HEATHROW - HEATHROW
07.00	09.00	09.00	09.00
10.15	10.15	11.30	11.30
11.00	11.00	11.30	11.30
12.15	12.15	13.30	13.30
14.15	14.15	15.30	15.30
16.15	16.15	17.30	17.30
18.15	18.15	19.30	19.30
20.15	20.15	21.00	21.00

THE MOST WEEKDAY FLIGHTS BETWEEN HEATHROW AND AMSTERDAM.

BRITISH MIDLAND

WPP spends £22.1m in second purchase

WPP Group, the acquisitive advertising and marketing company, has announced its second purchase within a week, having exchanged contracts to buy EWA, a British database management company, for a maximum of £22.1 million.

EWA, based at Maldon, Essex, employs 60 people and provides a computer-based information system for use in marketing goods and services. The deal involves an initial down-payment of £4.8 million, of which £2.88 million is in cash and the balance in new WPP shares. Six further payments are due in the years to 1993 based on profits, with an additional bonus payment of up to £3.6 million if EWA manages a compound annual growth rate of 25 per cent in after-tax profits. Last Friday WPP announced the acquisition of Eason Freeman, a US sales promotion company, for a maximum of £10.66 million.

Nestor-BNA buys Nursaid Roskel for the USM

Nestor-BNA, the nursing agency, is buying Nursaid, an agency based at Stourbridge, West Midlands, for £357,000 cash. The acquisition is expected to contribute about £85,000 to full-year trading profits. This month Nestor-BNA, which owns the British Nursing Association, the country's largest supplier of agency nursing staff, bought a Somerset agency in its first acquisition since flotation.

US double for Bunzl

Bunzl, the paper, packaging and transport group, has added to its US building materials supply business with the purchase of DJ Wholesale Building Materials Distributors and the much smaller Gittings Lumber Company. Initial payment for the two is \$17.2 million (\$9.1 million), with a further payment dependent on DJ's profits this year and next, expected to be about \$5 million.

DJ, based in Vermont, is a leading independent wholesale distributor of specialty building materials. Sales and profits have grown at an annual compound rate of more than 30 per cent over the past four years. Gittings is a distributor of timber products and is based in Colorado. Bunzl says its integration with its existing Denver operation will produce substantial savings in operational costs.

S&U rises to £1.74m Price increase for diamonds

S&U Stores, the retail consumer credit financier, raised its profits by £500,000 to £1.74 million in the year to end-January. Turnover was static at £37.77 million, up just £18,000. A final dividend of 2.75p raises the total to 4p, from 2.5p, ahead of the half-way forecast. Mr Derek Coombs, the chairman, credited the improvement at S&U to lower interest costs and tighter management controls.

Cecil Gee out of red

Cecil Gee, the USM-quoted retailer and designer of men's clothing, made pretax profits in the year to end-January of £357,000, compared with a loss of £1.7 million the previous year. Turnover was unchanged at £16.6 million. Margins recovered and operating expenses and interest payable both fell. The total dividend was raised to 1.25p from 1p.

New Cecil Gee branches opened last year in Birmingham and Eastcheap, City, and further expansion opportunities are under consideration. Operations in America did not perform so well, but management changes and stringent cost controls have been implemented.

Foseco still has a great deal to prove

It is a hard grind at Foseco Minsep and the end is not yet in sight. At the pretax level, the group is back to where it was in 1985, but earnings have not yet made up the ground lost in the dark days of 1986.

It is one thing for the group to recognize its past shortcomings internally and make the necessary management and operational changes, but the market, rightly or wrongly, has a much longer memory.

It remembers the accident-prone characteristics of a business that earns a quarter of its profits in steel-related markets. And, because the international strengths of Foseco have not been properly developed, the potential of exploiting these markets has not been appreciated.

The group has made a strategic decision to cut loss-makers Cracius and Gibson-Homans, both sold in the last six months. Further modest disposals may also be made, but the bulk of the strategic restructuring is complete.

Last year's figures included £1.7 million of redundancy charges, up from £1.2 million in 1986. This cost will be much reduced in 1988 when Foseco will also benefit from loss elimination.

Strong cash flow has reduced gearing from 37 per cent to 12 per cent before taking into account the £17 million (£9 million) received from the disposal of Gibson-Homans.

Acquisitions are being made to strengthen the core businesses of metallurgical chemicals, construction and mining chemicals, and abrasives and diamond products. Longer term, more sizeable acquisitions are possible.

The group remains committed to achieving a 10 per cent operating margin. Last year it rose from 6 per cent to 7 per cent.

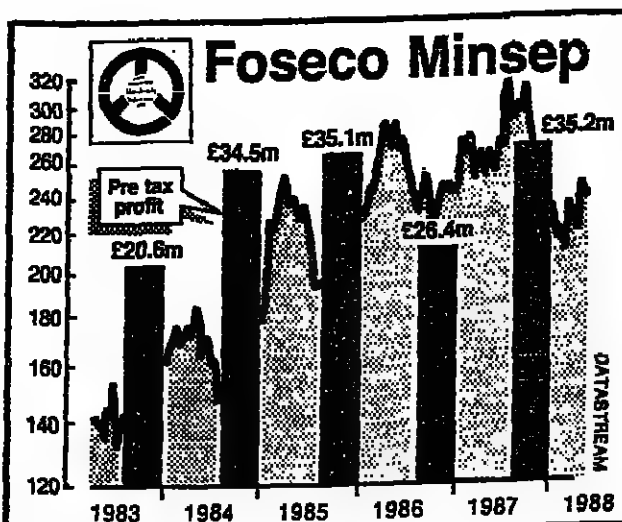
The tax charge is higher than it should be, although down from 49 per cent to 45 per cent. The group has an Advance Corporation Tax problem in Britain and unrelieved tax losses in the United States.

Even taking into account the undoubted currency negative the group will suffer this year, Foseco should report pretax profits of £40 million.

The shares stand at a discount to the market of just over 10 per cent. But it may take a couple of more sets of consistent results, showing growth rather than recovery, to justify a re-rating. Until then, the yield of more than 6.5 per cent will have to underpin the share price.

Westbury

Housebuilding is a cash-hungry business and investors in companies such as Westbury, which is in that line of business alone, must expect to be asked to dig into their pockets from time to time.



This is Westbury's first rights issue since coming to the market in May 1986. The results accompanying it should have satisfied the market and the record is good.

With sales ahead of last year and margins rising, the current year also looks set to produce record results.

The shares, however, drifted back on the news of the fund-raising exercise. The market was, no doubt, reminded that housing land is very expensive and other housebuilders may be biding their time before tapping the market.

But Westbury's business is better than many. It is barely exposed to the South-east of the country where there are fears, admittedly mostly unproven, that the market is

overheating. Expansion into growth areas such as East Anglia, the South-west and the South Midlands is paying off.

The group sold 2,415 homes last year at an average price of £47,500, below the national average. Volumes should increase slightly this year, but more effort is being put into securing higher margins than chasing volume.

Operating margins rose last year from 11.8 per cent to 13.7 per cent. But in the second half of the year they were above 15 per cent, and are still widening. By the end of 1988, Westbury aims to have increased margins by a couple of per cent over last year.

Westbury avoids public tenders and auctions for land, preferring to develop a land

bank by private negotiation. It owns 6,700 plots and has a further 6,000 plots under option. Taking both types of land together this totals more than five years' supply.

The group should make at least £23 million this year. The rating is modest, but despite the undoubted quality of the management and earnings, the shares are unlikely to be conspicuous outperformers.

For the market is already worrying about the long-awaited cyclical downturn. Yet with mortgage availability at record levels and the strength of the Southern markets spreading to the rest of the country, it is missing an opportunity.

Victaulic

Plastic pipes and pipeline products may lack glamour, but few industries could operate without them.

The products of British market leader Victaulic, which is coming to the market by way of a placing, crop up all over the place, including inside mangled Lloyd's building in the City.

Since the buyout from British Steel in 1983, Victaulic has expanded both organically and by acquisition. Five new businesses have been added to the original three, allowing Victaulic to diversify its market base.

British Gas is the largest

single customer, taking 30 per cent of output. The water authorities take 30 per cent and British Coal 5 per cent. Such dependence on a few big concerns can cause profits disruptions if several adverse factors coincide, as they did in 1985.

New industrial uses, Channel Tunnel opportunities and the urgent need to replace Britain's ageing pipe networks provide Victaulic with plenty of opportunities for growth.

The placing price of 235p puts the shares on a historic p/e of just under 11. There are no directly comparable companies against which to measure Victaulic, but the reluctance of existing shareholders to sell is clearly a mark of their confidence in the company's long term value.

British Steel will reduce its holding to 21.7 per cent from 29.5 per cent, and the three institutions which participated in the buyout will come down to 21.6 per cent from 29.6 per cent. The directors' and employee shareholding will reduce to 33.2 per cent from 41 per cent.

The £5.8 million being raised by the flotation will be used to redeem £3.4 million of preference share capital, leaving £2.4 million for investment and acquisitions.

The long and solid record of the company should ensure a decent reception on the stock market.

Alphameric rights issue to raise £9m

By Martin Waller

Alphameric, the computer keyboard and terminal manufacturer, is raising about £9 million with a rights issue on a one-for-four basis at 24p a share.

The money will at first go to reduce the group's borrowings, said Mr Roger Hatfield, the finance director, but it would eventually be used to fund expansion.

"We've got a number of smaller projects and opportunities in our sights at the moment which we intend to spend the money on over the next year, but none are spectacular or certain enough to mention at this stage," he said.

"They will add on to virtually all parts of the business. But I would be surprised if we spend all the money by the end of this year."

The rights issue is underwritten by Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker. Investors in industry, with 10.6 per cent of

Alphameric, has undertaken to take up its rights in full.

Alphameric is estimating pretax profits in the year to end-March of £4.6 million, up from a restated £3.9 million, despite a poor first half when earnings were halved.

It is promising a final dividend of 2.5p, making a total 40 per cent ahead at 3.5p.

The full-year figures include an interest charge of £230,000, reflecting the group's borrowings at the year-end of £3.9 million.

All recent acquisitions made a contribution to profits in the second half, said Mr Hatfield.

Real Time Developments, acquired in April 1987, chipped in about £100,000, while PC Communications, bought in December 1987 and merger-accounted, made £700,000 in the full year, up from £300,000 last time.

Judges put moral pressure on ITC

By Colin Narborough

The International Tin Council, the government-backed commodity cartel that failed in October 1985 leaving a trail of bad debts, yesterday came under strong moral pressure in the Court of Appeal to repay the hundreds of millions it owes.

The plea to the insolvent ITC accompanied a ruling by the appeal judges that they were powerless under English law to order the organization to settle its debts with creditor banks and metal brokers.

Lord Justice Kerr said the way the London-based ITC had resisted all legal attempts by its creditors to regain their losses, initially estimated at \$900 million, was "unbecoming" of an international organization. Britain and the 22 other signatory states were morally obliged to provide the ITC with the means of paying its debts, he said.

In its 300-page judgement, which followed seven weeks of hearings, the court rejected appeals from 11 creditor brokers and six banks that the Government and the other ITC members were jointly and severally liable.

Lord Justice Kerr said Mr Justice Millett was wholly justified in the High Court when he said the ITC behaved "more like a disreputable private debtor, concerned only to hinder and delay his creditors, than the responsible international organization that it claims to be."

He said the ITC's duty was to undo the damage to its creditors by ensuring its assets were used to pay its debts "without any further prevarication. And its members are in our view at least morally obliged to put the ITC in funds to ensure that its creditors are ultimately paid in full."

The court upheld High Court decisions that the ITC had a separate legal personality, separate from its members, and was alone responsible for its debts.

The creditors are expected to ask to appeal to the House of Lords.

Otari in £25m UK order

By Our City Staff

Fernplan, a private company in Farnham, Surrey, has won a £25 million contract to provide video cassette vending machines to the Otari Electric Company of Tokyo, Japan.

Mr Mamoru Gonda, the engineering director at Otari, came to Britain for a ceremonial handing-over of contracts with Mr John Moore, chief executive of Fernplan.

The five-year agreement requires the delivery of 3,500 "Videopoint 5000" machines to Japan. They are made by Fernplan's 70 per cent owned subsidiary, the Essex Engineering Company of Essex, Connecticut, US.

The machines, which take standard credit cards or a special "Videopoint" charge card, allow the user to rent or buy the latest video releases. There are about 100 in Britain, operating from retail outlets such as Asda and Gateway stores.

Fernplan was set up 16 months ago.

Cooper buys £15m Lorlin

By Alison Eadie

Frederick Cooper, the fast growing industrial holding company, has made an agreed £15.1 million offer for Lorlin Electronics, the USM-quoted electrical components manufacturer.

The acquisition is the largest Cooper has made and its first of a quoted company. The business fit is neat. Cooper's existing electrical components division makes connectors and Lorlin makes switches. Mr Eddie Kirk, the chairman and chief executive of Cooper, said: "We should be able to sell each other's ranges to each other's customers."

The deal is being funded by convertible preference shares on the basis of 22 Cooper preference shares for every 10 ordinary in Lorlin. The preference shares have been valued at 108p each, valuing each Lorlin share at 238p. There is also a cash alternative of 220p per share.

Mr Kirk said institutions were happier to take fixed interest equity at a time of falling interest rates. The coupon on the preference shares is 6.5 per cent.

Cooper's recent expansion has been centred on its elec-

trical components and architectural ironmongery and security products. Cooper also has metal finishing, materials handling and specialist engineering businesses. In the half-year to the end of January it made pretax profits of £2.35 million against £1.72 million in the previous first half.

Lorlin made pretax profits in the year to the end of December of £1.1 million, unchanged from the previous year. Cooper already has acceptances for 55 per cent of Lorlin's equity.

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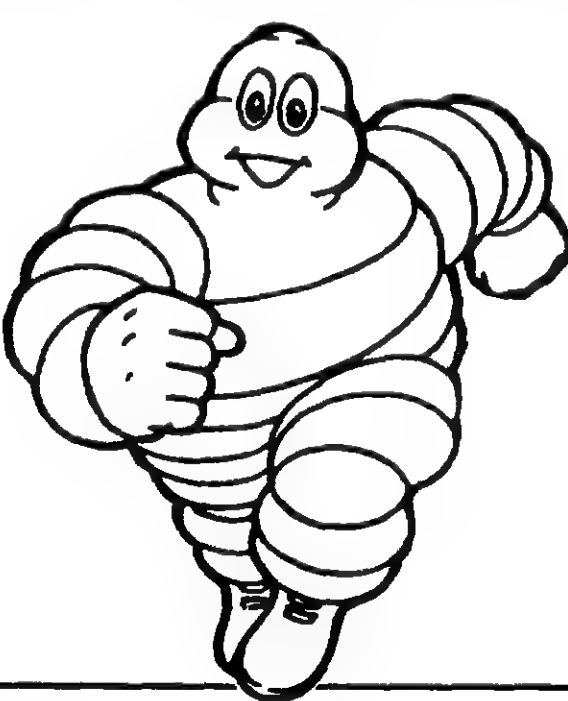
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Profit before taxation	£47.4m	£33.9m	39.8
Profit after taxation	£42.8m	£30.3m	41.3

Note: Results are based on consolidated accounts with an unqualified audit report not yet filed with the Registrar of Companies.

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UniChem to switch adverts but share scheme survives

By Lawrence Levy

The controversial share promotion scheme put forward by UniChem, the pharmaceutical wholesaler, has so far survived intact following complaints to the Department of Trade and Industry.

UniChem announced yesterday it had given undertakings to the DTI that future advertisements promoting the scheme would be circulated by a stockbroker or licensed dealer. It also promised the advertisements would comply with the Financial Services Act which is due to come into force on Friday.

The scheme, which has led to opposition from rivals, entitles pharmacists to buy

UniChem shares at a discount when it converts from friendly society into a public company — probably in 1990. UniChem's scheme gives its customers increasingly favourable terms depending on the amount of business.

The practical effect of the DTI's involvement is that Phillips & Drew, acting as both broker and merchant bank adviser to UniChem, will have to issue advertisements for the promotional scheme on its behalf.

Mr Peter Dodd, UniChem's chief executive, conceded that perhaps some modification to the advertisements would now be necessary. "But so far as the scheme itself is con-

cerned there is not the slightest bit of difference," he said.

AAH, a rival wholesaler, complained about UniChem's advertisements and the scheme itself, claiming it contravened the Competition Act.

The Office of Fair Trading is examining the competition aspect of the AAH complaint which represents a serious challenge to the discount scheme.

Macarthy, the quoted healthcare group, has offered £71 million for UniChem. This has been flatly rejected.

A Macarthy spokeswoman claimed yesterday the company was "delighted" with the result of the DTI involvement. "It's a victory because it

has shown they were not doing the right thing," she said.

The next battle facing UniChem may be at its annual meeting on May 18. Yesterday, a formal requisition of an extraordinary general meeting called for a resolution to be put on May 18 calling for UniChem to convert immediately into a public company.

The resolution, put forward by Mr John Newbould, a UniChem member, needs the support of 400 members. It was supported by 578 people signing requisition forms, although Mr Dodd said preliminary indications were that a lot of forms were invalid because the signatories were not UniChem members.

S Korea setback for BP venture

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

BP's plans to expand into the Far East have been dealt a severe blow on the eve of the company's annual meeting with a veto on its investment in a new refinery in South Korea because of a family dispute between businessmen there.

A proposal to take a 50 per cent stake in the first high technology oil refinery to be built in Korea has been halted by the Hyundai Corporation, the country's largest industrial group.

The refinery was to have been built by BP and Kukdong Oil near the city of Kookdong at a cost of \$520 million with BP taking a 40 per cent stake. However, Hyundai, which is Kukdong Oil's largest shareholder, has said that it will not allow BP to gain a foothold in the market in the country.

The South Korean government had supported the joint venture, but Mr Chang Hong Suu, the chairman of Kukdong Oil, has several relatives who are also shareholders in Hyundai and a family dispute over the involvement of BP has led to the British company being told that the joint venture is now off.

BP sees the Pacific Basin as a main area for expansion following its increased penetration of the US market.

Victaulic coming to market

By Alison Eadie

Victaulic, Britain's leading maker of pipes, is coming to the stock market via a placing which values it at £46.4 million. The company was bought out from the British Steel Corporation in 1983 at £15 million.

The 562 employees who participated in the buyout have seen the value of their investment rise 18.8 times to reach the placing price of 235p. The company, which was founded in 1920, was nationalized and privatized in the 1950s, re-nationalized with BSC in 1967 and privatized again during the 1983 buyout.

Of the 4.4 million shares being placed 60 per cent are new shares and the remaining 40 per cent are being sold by existing shareholders.

Times, page 24

General Cinema bills Cadbury feature

General Cinema's late-night trailer could not have been more explicit, even if Cadbury Schweppes found it "too ambiguous to be capable of clear interpretation."

Cadbury Schweppes has been kicked "into play", to join its fellow chocolate maker Rowntree on the international playing field. General Cinema has shown a masterly grasp of long-term strategy. It picked up its stake in Cadbury Schweppes, now amounting to 17.7 per cent, when the price was on the floor. It financed the holding through a novel convertible stock and now judges the time right to make a move.

The Americans, just as much as the Swiss, know there will be one winner and two losers in the Rowntree battle, however the final votes are cast. One loser is likely to be Rowntree which, unless saved by government action, looks destined to end under a Swiss thumb before the year is out. Whether it is the soft fat thumb of Nestlé or the sticky little Daumen of Jacobs Suchard depends on how determined each is to win. At present Nestlé has the cash but Jacobs Suchard has the initiative: Suchard has made no bid so can buy Rowntree in the market at any price it chooses. Already it has admitted to 16 per cent, and last night it was still buying.

The battles are not only, however, about confectionery, and indeed General Cinema is not looking for sweets.

to sell in the interval between the big pictures. It is interested in Cadbury's soft drinks operations, which amount to about half the company, and would I suspect be willing to sell off the confectionery operations to a willing buyer. It sees the vanquished party in the Rowntree contests as the natural partner. In short, it thinks Cadbury can be parted from Schweppes, just as easily as a previous generation put the two halves together.

The message to the market is that Cadbury Schweppes is still too cheap. If the same price/earnings multiple was applied to its shares as Nestlé is prepared to offer for Rowntree, then the Cadbury price would be around 420p, compared with last night's close of 362p. But that is not a sensible comparison, because soft drinks are rated more highly than sweets, so a reasonable exit for Cadbury would be around 500p.

The possible escape for Cadbury is that General Cinema is not really big enough to bid alone, and takeovers that rely on cooperation between joint bidders seeking to divide the spoils rarely seem to get off the starting block. But the whole sector is an arbitrageurs' paradise, a point not lost on the market.

It hardly seems the best way of deciding where Britain stands in the international confectionery business.

Bears desert cash mountain

Bids apart, the stock market is still twiddling its thumbs. It took a short-lived rumour that Nigel Lawson had resigned to inject some fast action yesterday afternoon. The dealers and market-makers are still waiting for the mass return of their best customers, the big City institutions. They could have some time to wait. A new study by Phillips & Drew suggests that the fabled mountain of money, poised to flood into shares as soon as investment committees press the button, may be something of a mirage.

Liquidity built up sharply to £18.4 billion in the last quarter of 1987, the time of the crash. But it still only reached 4.3 per cent of portfolio assets, which is about 1.5 points below the average for pension and insurance funds in second half of the seventies. If the institutions kept half their first quarter inflow in cash this year, they would still only be up to a 5 per cent cash ratio, comparable to the late seventies average, if the fickle general insurance funds are excluded.

Cash flow is not growing so fast as usual because of pension fund holidays. Moreover, the cash build-up came from selling overseas equities. Institutions kept buying UK shares, leaving less reason to think they may be waiting for the big moment.

Instead, they may well be reading the latest bearish comments from Peter and Jeffrey Thompson of BZW, who reckon that, if there is a second leg to the bear market, the FT-SE 100 share index could fall up to 300 points to between 1,450 and 1,500. This worst case, they emphasize, is not a forecast.

But they note that "investors should measure the risk of this happening against the possibility of an equivalent upward movement in equities." And BZW has been expecting a second leg to the bear market in 1989, when the new US president has to grapple with the contradictions of the American economy.

The basis of this pessimism is that perceptions about economic growth will change and that equities will therefore return to their long-term valuation. This used to be a yield of 5 per cent (against 4.2 per cent now) or a long-term yield somewhere between 1 and 2 per cent higher than index-linked gilt-edged stock, allowing for above average dividend growth over the next two years.

On present fundamentals, however, dividend growth should carry the 100 share index to between 1800 and 1950 by the end of this year. So, in BZW's eyes, it is not hard to calculate where the balance of risk lies.

Nestlé sets sights on Britain

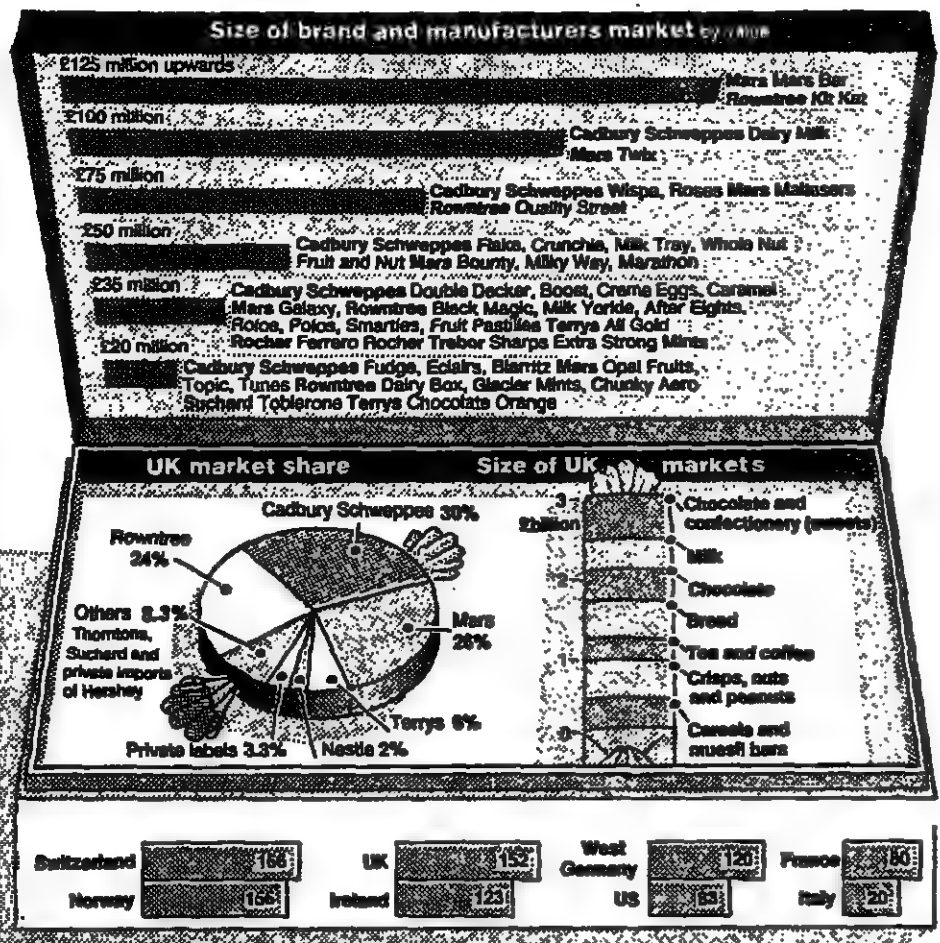
By Rosemary Unsworth
Retail Affairs Correspondent

Nestlé, the world's largest food group, is likely to expand further into the British market regardless of the outcome of its £2.1 billion takeover bid for Rowntree. Other British companies, not necessarily in the confectionery business, may now fall victim to the Swiss company. The biscuit business is seen as a potential target, and yesterday United Biscuits' share price jumped from 289p to 300p.

The Swiss have been forced to move into European markets before the opening up of EEC trade barriers by the end of 1992. Only last month Nestlé paid £700 million for Signor Carlo de Benedetti's Buitoni food group.

The logic behind the offer for Rowntree, estimated as number four in volume terms in the chocolate market after world leaders Mars, Hershey and Cadbury Schweppes — is a natural fit for Nestlé.

The York-based company is strong in areas like chocolate covered bars where the Swiss group is weak. And Rowntree, which has had a presence in Europe for nearly 20 years, has finally seen profits on that side, with Smarties popular in Italy and the West Germans eating After Eight.



Payment to Ward unlawful, says QC

The non-disclosure of the £5.2 million payment to Mr Thomas Ward, the former Guinness director, was clearly a breach of both company law and the Guinness group's articles, the company's counsel told the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Mr David Oliver QC was contesting Mr Ward's appeal against a High Court order last year that he should repay the sum — his fee for his services during Guinness's £2.6 billion takeover of Distillers in 1986.

The basis of the High Court ruling by Vice-Chancellor Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson was that the agreement between Mr Ward and Mr Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chairman, under which the payment was made was unlawful because there was never any disclosure to the full Guinness board.

Soviet boost for Western firms

By Colin Narborough

Western companies will soon be able to acquire majority interests in joint ventures in the Soviet Union, and will no longer be limited to the maximum stake of 49 per cent Moscow allows at present.

The Soviet leadership is expected to announce this radical change on foreign control in conjunction with its party conference in June.

The prospect was predicted yesterday by Ernst & Whinney, the international business consultants.

The company is advising members of the American Trade Consortium, a company set up to explore the potential of joint ventures with Soviet partners, which includes leading US corporations such as Nabisco, Ford and Eastman Kodak.

Consultancy for Ernst & Whinney is a two-way affair, and it has been commissioned by Moscow City Council to seek suitable Western companies for joint ventures to develop a high quality publishing business, a chain of hard currency chemists, and a luxury hotel with management training facilities.

The reason the Soviet side is ready to turn to business consultants is the speed and "best practice" they can offer — both features welcome to Soviet reformers, who are looking for early and tangible progress.

Dr John Howell, director of Ernst & Whinney's east European division, sees Moscow's change of mind on foreign ownership as the result of vigorous lobbying by Western business. Soviet control is seen as an inhibiting factor that adds to other unresolved problems such as the repatriation of earnings.

Islanders channel resources

Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, is effectively closing down its Channel Islands office in Jersey. The business, which spans stock broking and asset management, is being absorbed by the Jersey branch of Bank Cantrade which, like Phillips & Drew, is a subsidiary of the Union Bank of Switzerland.

And, amidst the reorganization, which involves the loss of the Phillips & Drew (CI) name, two former Phillips & Drew partners, have, I learn, resigned. Colin Cavill, who was managing director of the Jersey offshoot, and one of its directors, Andrew Seaman, are now planning to launch their own private-client business, still based on the tax-haven island. They are, I am told, currently in the process of seeking permission from the Jersey authorities. "Bank Cantrade has a big operation on the island and the Phillips & Drew operation there is a better fit with it than with us," says Keith Percy, the chief executive of Phillips & Drew's asset management subsidiary, and under whose umbrella the Jersey operation had come until now. The firm's operation there will, however, continue in its existing premises for the time being, until Bank Cantrade has finished building a new office to bring all its activities under one roof. And the firm's combined activities will now be run by two other Phillips & Drew directors, Barry Ching and Peter Stoneman.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

No mole in the tunnel

So much for the intrigue of espionage. It seems that these days the Russians just come straight out and ask what they want to know. And the latest subject of interest behind the Iron Curtain is our own Channel tunnel. I am told that Eurotunnel, the Anglo-French consortium building the rail tunnel, received a telephone call the other day from France, the Communist Party newspaper. After asking for specifications of the tunnel, the *Pravda* journalist asked what would happen to it in a military crisis. Would it be handed over to the Government? "We do not comment on security aspects," said the Eurotunnel representative, sending the cheeky Russian packing with a flea in his ear.

Test for Lloyd

Ian Botham is not the only cricketer with a social conscience. Clive Lloyd, the former West Indies and Lancashire cricketer, will, I hear, be stepping out on a new and unfamiliar City pitch tonight. He will apparently be at Lloyd's to give a presentation, sponsored by the insurance market, on Project Full-employ, the private and public

sector organization which aims to increase the involvement of ethnic minority communities in the British economy. He will be attempting to persuade the men and women of Lloyd's to sign up as members of his team "Full-employ 500", which has a membership limited to 500. Although they must pay an annual fee of £500 each for the privilege, there is a carrot in that membership entitles you, to participation in draws for tickets to big sporting events. Sounds like a must for all Test match fans.

Bamboozling

As a variant on the coals to Newcastle theme, tourists are being given free chopsticks to go to China. SCT-China, part of the Cambridge-based Premier travel group, is apparently giving its customers plastic chopsticks, with a warning not to use local bamboo chopsticks for fear of catching hepatitis.

Resigned to garden

Simon Clegg, managing director of Prudential-Rache Capital Funding, the UK equities side of the American securities house, has, I hear, resigned. Clegg handed in his notice yesterday and is now being urged to spend three months "in the garden" before joining the sales desk at rival broker Hoare Govett. "He starts with us on August 1," Nigel Hughes, head of market-making at Hoare Govett, tells me. "We were in competition with one or two other UK securities houses to secure his services and we are very pleased to have him." Hoare Govett is known to be in the market for a number of other sales people following the loss, earlier this year, of a couple of salesmen to Morgan Grenfell. "Clegg is not replacing either of them," says Hughes, "he is an addition to the team. We are still buyers of good quality people in a sellers' market."

Filefax, the company which revolutionized the pocket diary market with its personal organizers, is now launching the office. The USM-quoted company is launching Deskfax, also a loose-leaf product, which will sell at upwards of £70 for a basic system. "It's the company's first new product line since 1921," says Filefax chairman David Colles.

"We think it will appeal to companies, both for their own employees and as gifts to customers." For those wanting to integrate the two systems, the time-ring Deskfax folders can hold papers from a six-ring Filefax.

Carol Leonard

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41	50	50	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
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43	52	52	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
44	53	53	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
45	54	54	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
46	55	55	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
47	56	56	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
48	57	57	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
49	58	58	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
50	59	59	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
51	60	60	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
52	61	61	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
53	62	62	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
54	63	63	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
55	64	64	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
56	65	65	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
57	66	66	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
58	67	67	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
59	68	68	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
60	69	69	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
61	70	70	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
62	71	71	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
63	72	72	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
64	73	73	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
65	74	74	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
66	75	75	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
67	76	76	0	0	42.8	113	90	97	0	0	17	30	28	28	0	0	17	158	158	158	0	0	41	21	21	21	0	0	21	21	21
68	77	77	0	0	42.8	113	9																								

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling index compared with 1975 was same at 78.2 (day's range 78.1-78.3).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

MARKETS RATES FOR APR 27					
	Range	Close	1 month	3 months	
New York	1.8715-1.8765	1.8755-1.8785	0.17-0.14P	0.55-0.50P	
London	2.9892-2.9912	2.9902-2.9912	0.10-0.03P	0.26-0.24P	
Amsterdam	3.5212-3.5238	3.5222-3.5238	1.15-1.14P	4.35P	
Brussels	65.95-65.90	65.74-65.80	50-20P	80-52P	
Frankfurt	12.0782-12.0792	12.0782-12.0792	10-10P	30-20P	
Dublin	1.1737-1.1735	1.1778-1.1782	20-10P	60-41P	
Frankfurt	3.1367-3.1483	3.1438-3.1483	35-10P	10-10P	
London	2.9892-2.9912	2.9902-2.9912	10-10P	10-10P	
Madrid	2.07-2.07.83	2.073-2.07.82	15-50P	105-1210P	
Paris	23.57-23.59	23.537-23.597	2-50P	11-16P	
London	1.6267-1.6274	1.6267-1.6274	15-10P	15-10P	
Milan	10.855-10.8589	10.8632-10.8745	15-10P	15-10P	
Stockholm	11.0047-11.0265	11.0167-11.0262	11-10P	31-45P	
London	2.9892-2.9912	2.9902-2.9912	15-10P	15-10P	
Vienna	22.06-22.12	22.07-22.10	11-10P	20A-21.10P	
Zurich	2.6000-2.6020	2.6025-2.6059	15-10P	41-34P	
<p> <i>Argentine austral</i> 1,550.13-1,533.50 <i>Australian dollar</i> 2.6780-2.6782 <i>Bahamian dollar</i> 0.702-0.7080 <i>Brazilian cruzeiro</i> 947.50-947.50 <i>Canadian dollar</i> 0.63-0.64 <i>French franc</i> 6.4920-6.5190 <i>German deutsche</i> 261-255.23 <i>Indian rupee</i> 4.54-4.55 <i>Indo rupiah</i> 24.73-24.53 <i>Kuwait dinar</i> 0.5115-0.5155 <i>Malaysian dollar</i> 4.54-4.55 <i>Mexico peso</i> 4000-4300 <i>New Zealand dollar</i> 2.7742-2.8002 <i>Philippine peso</i> 4.90-4.95 <i>Singapore dollar</i> 3.478-3.7535 <i>S. African rand (Rn)</i> 5.8350-5.4225 <i>Sri Lanka rupee</i> 200-200.50 <i>U.A.E. dirham</i> 6.6880-6.9030 </p>					

*Lloyd Bank, Rates supplied by
 Citicorp and Barclays Bank HOPEX

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Finland	1,980-1,991.5	Denmark	8,850-8,850	Italy	1248.3-1247.3
Singapore	2,002-2,004	W Germany	1,676-1,677.5	Belgium (Coat)	35.00-35.1
France	1,750-1,757.80	Switzerland	2,885-2,886	Hong Kong	77.5-77.70
Australia	1,324.5-1,325.5	Netherlands	1,878.5-1,880.5	Portugal	137.10-137.50
Canada	1,227.5-1,228.5	France	5,982.0-5,985.0	Spain	110.55-111.05
Sweden	5,870-5,882.0	Japan	124.90-125.00	Austria	11.78-11.78
Norway	5,168.0-5,173.0				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Exor.

- MONEY MARKETS -

[illegible]

1178 **REVIEW**

FCID Auctions
 2 mch 2-25-98, 2 mch 29-31, 3 mch 29-31
 5 mch 2-25-98, 9 mch 2-25-98, 12 mch 29-31
 Sunday Close
 3 mch 2-25-98, 6 mch 2-25-98, 12 mch 29-31
 Dollar Close Feb 1, 1 mch 1-25-98
 12 mch 29-31, 13 mch 7-70-75

ECGD
 Fixed Rate Starting Export Finance. Make-up date
 March 1, 1998. Auction dates: Feb 28, 1998 to May 24,
 1998. Schedule: 1 to 38 per cent. Schedules 1 to 17;
 107 per cent. Reference rate March 1, 1998 to March 31,

Open: \$450.00-452.50 Low: \$448.25-448.50
 High: \$451.75-449.25 Low: \$448.25-448.75

COINs: Per coin (Ex VAT)
 Platinum: \$485.00-470.00 (\$240.00-235.00)
 Palladium: \$430.00-420.00 (\$215.00-210.00)
 Nickel: \$100.00-98.50-97.00 (\$248.00-251.00)
 American Express: \$100.00-98.50-97.00 (\$251.00-250.00)
 New Governors: \$100.25-107.25 (\$258.50-257.50)
 Old Governors: \$100.25-107.25 (\$258.50-257.50)
 British: \$51.00-50.00 (\$125.00-122.50)
 Palladium: \$122.75 (\$266.00)

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTUR

[illegible]

Sep 89 NT 91.37 0 Sep 88 NT

COMMODITIES														
LONDON FOX					LONDON METAL EXCHANGE									
COCOA					Official prices/volume previous day									
May 592-991	G W JOYCE	May 592-971					Russett Wolf							
Jul 594-973	May 593-991	Jul 594-973												
Dec 592-992	May 593-991	Dec 592-992												
Dec 590-949	May 593-991	Dec 590-949												
COFFEE														
May 1095-057	G W JOYCE	May 1095-057												
Jul 1095-057	May 1172-170	Jul 1095-057												
May 1195-100	May 1195-100	May 1195-100												
Nov 1105-138	May 1046	Nov 1105-138												
SUGAR														
FOX	C COWAN	FOX												
May 1953-9-50	Dec 1954-614	May 1953-9-50												
Aug 1954-614	Aug 1954-614	Aug 1954-614												
Oct 1971-56.5	May 1953-9-7.8	Oct 1971-56.5												
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES														
WHEAT CLASS 100LBS														
May 103.4-1	May 103.4-1	May 103.4-1												
Nov 103.4-1	Nov 103.4-1	Nov 103.4-1												
BARLEY CLASS 100LBS														
May 107.5	May 107.5	May 107.5												
Nov 107.5	Nov 107.5	Nov 107.5												
OATS CLASS 100LBS														
May 104.85	May 104.85	May 104.85												
SOYABEAN														
May 120.4-2.4	Dec 127.7-27.4	May 120.4-2.4												
Aug 124.0-2.5	Aug 124.0-2.5	Aug 124.0-2.5												
Oct 125.0-2.6	Aug 132.0-31.0	Oct 125.0-2.6												
May 177	May 35	May 177												

Gains trimmed

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 26.)

Portfolio
— PLUS NEW —
Accumulator
© Times Newspapers Limited

DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000
Claims required for 37 points

ACCUMULATOR £54,000
Claims better than 37 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272.

[illegible]

123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000
123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791																																																																																																																																																																																																																	

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

1979	181	199	193	54	95	1
1980	181	199	193	54	95	1
1981	181	199	193	54	95	1
1982	181	199	193	54	95	1
1983	181	199	193	54	95	1
1984	181	199	193	54	95	1
1985	181	199	193	54	95	1
1986	181	199	193	54	95	1
1987	181	199	193	54	95	1
1988	181	199	193	54	95	1
1989	181	199	193	54	95	1
1990	181	199	193	54	95	1
1991	181	199	193	54	95	1
1992	181	199	193	54	95	1
1993	181	199	193	54	95	1
1994	181	199	193	54	95	1
1995	181	199	193	54	95	1
1996	181	199	193	54	95	1
1997	181	199	193	54	95	1
1998	181	199	193	54	95	1
1999	181	199	193	54	95	1
2000	181	199	193	54	95	1
2001	181	199	193	54	95	1
2002	181	199	193	54	95	1
2003	181	199	193	54	95	1
2004	181	199	193	54	95	1
2005	181	199	193	54	95	1
2006	181	199	193	54	95	1
2007	181	199	193	54	95	1
2008	181	199	193	54	95	1
2009	181	199	193	54	95	1
2010	181	199	193	54	95	1
2011	181	199	193	54	95	1
2012	181	199	193	54	95	1
2013	181	199	193	54	95	1
2014	181	199	193	54	95	1
2015	181	199	193	54	95	1
2016	181	199	193	54	95	1
2017	181	199	193	54	95	1
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2020	181	199	193	54	95	1
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2038	181	199	193	54	95	1
2039	181	199	193	54	95	1

Forecast earnings θ Ex. other τ Ex. rights δ Ex. scrip or
share split λ Tax-free -- No significant data.

THE ARTS 1

TELEVISION

Brought to Book

Claiming to be "a literary guide to the Bible", *Bookmark* (BBC2) uncannily suggested what might happen if Alan Yentob were to sit up all night re-editing an *Everyman* special. Retreating from solemnity, it also evaded seriousness — precisely the gaffe committed by the born-again brigade.

Introduced by the archiepiscopal offspring, director James Runcie, the organizing principle was a textual progression from Genesis to Revelation, each chunk detouring haphazardly into conceptual outbursts.

A beaming nun spoke eloquently of the power of the Bible to change people's lives, but her specific story went unrevealed. Unaccountably glued to an Embankment bench, a philosopher worried about the rival claims for God's benevolence and omnipotence.

Among the splendours of Westminster Abbey's Jerusalem Chamber, P.D. James waxed lyrical over the version that was authorized there without alluding to the supposed contributions of Johnson and Shakespeare. Douay went unmentioned, the *Good News Bible* untraced.

It may be true that in this godless age the only contact with the Bible that many of us have is an occasional rifle through hotel editions, in forlorn search of the banknotes that the founder of the Gideons once left in such places. But if the Bible is worthy of consideration as literature (and many of the participants here plainly think so), it merits a coherent and scholarly treatment, not a frivolous exercise in populist tokenism.

An *Ocean Apart* (BBC1) dealt with the reverse colonialism of America's interbellum encroachment on the British Empire's captive markets. Max Factor invaded Bond Street; Ford stormed Dagenham; Firestone annexed Brentford. With the active encouragement of Herbert Hoover, the home appliance of the same name cleaned up on the South Coast, thereby directly inspiring Julian MacLaren-Ross's novel *Love And Hunger*.

The chief value of this excellently sharp series is to emphasize how recently American hegemony has been achieved, and to imply how brittle it may yet prove to be.

Martin Cropper

David Robinson reviews an Oscar-winning big business morality tale, a superstar-produced smalltown saga and an uninspired horror film

Where greed is the creed

CINEMA

Wall Street (15)
Odeon Leicester SquarePromised Land (15)
Cannon Tottenham Court RoadRetribution (18)
Cannons Haymarket, Oxford Street and Shaftesbury Avenue.Taking notes on how to power-lunch: Charlie Sheen (left) and Michael Douglas have their minds on finance rather than food in *Wall Street*

After the jungle warfare of *Salvador* and Vietnam (*Platoon*), Oliver Stone moves to Wall Street and the treacherous battlefronts of New York's Boeskyland in the great bull market of 1985. Charlie Sheen, the innocent hero of *Platoon*, is here a brash and ambitious young broker, Bud Fox. He ingratiates himself with Gekko (Michael Douglas), a top operator in the million-dollar world of insider deals and executive-suite crime, by passing on confidential information about an airline company which he has extracted from his father, a blue-collar union representative in the firm.

Eagerly undertaking industrial espionage and dirty tricks for Gekko, he rises fast to his own private office and million-dollar apartment. All too soon, though, he finds himself out of his depth and outclassed in the necessary qualities of treachery and greed. When he finally fails, he achieves an ambivalent sort of redemption, by bringing down Gekko with him.

Stone has a personal link with this world: his father was a stockbroker, and one imagines that the honourable old-style boss of Bud's brokerage firm (Hal Holbrook) is intended as a family portrait.

Father figures are important in the dramatic scheme of Stone's scripts. In *Platoon*, Sheen was torn between two surrogate fathers represented by the good and demonic sergeants. Here he is agonizingly divided between loy-

alties to his mentor and ideal, Gekko, and his real father (played by Sheen's own father, Martin Sheen), symbolizing old-fashioned, unprofitable decency.

Shot in an appropriately restless, nervy camera style (by Robert Richardson), *Wall Street* describes in documentary detail — which may be tough going on those who are not amateurs of the City pages — the workings of the trading floor.

Stone evidently intended a statement on an age and a class dominated by greed and unburdened by conscience. Gekko tells an approving shareholders' meeting, "Greed is good. Greed is

right. Greed wins. Greed captures the essence of the evolutionary urge. Greed has motivated the upward surge of mankind."

He is full of epigrams: "There is no nobility in poverty any more"; "What's worth doing is worth doing for money." The main thing about money is that it makes you do things you don't want to do. Father Sheen's view is understandably different: "Money's something you need in case you don't die tomorrow."

The problem is that bad people are always so much more fun than good ones; and the material rewards and sheer excitement of yuppiedom are irresistibly seduc-

tive. Although his megalomania could have been done with a sometimes less mephistophelean touch, Michael Douglas's Gekko is easily the most appealing and vivid character in the film — and won him an Oscar to prove it.

Martin Sheen's solid citizen cannot compete with Douglas's lines. Even Stone's own belief in redemption seems dubious: when Bud agrees to meet Gekko, wired for bugging, his betrayal of his fallen idol seems motivated not so much by remorse as revenge.

Stone's *Wall Street* is a man's world: the women get very little more look-in than they did in *Platoon*. Mostly they are loyal and

silent secretaries. Sheen has a brief affair with a brittle Manhattan decorator (Daryl Hannah) who does dreadful things to apartments with polystyrene plasterwork, gold leaf and million-dollar modern abstracts. Sylvia Miles makes a brief appearance as an odious real estate agent.

Promised Land was developed by Robert Redford's Sundance Institute in Utah, where the film was shot. As executive producer, Redford offers a portentous introduction: "I think our country is in a real transition at the moment... *Promised Land* took place in the middle part of America where there is some

confusion and anxiety, mostly among young people, about where their future is going. I thought *Promised Land* addressed the issue in a talented way."

In the outcome, he was mistaken. The vignettes of small-town life and the vast dramatic landscapes which dwarf the characters indicate that the film makers actually hoped to make some big social statement about the problems of the young in America here and now. The trouble is that the characters they have created are boring, undirected, self-centred people who would reliably make a mess of their lives any time.

The film opens in the glory days of high school with Davy (Jason Gedrick) and Danny (Kiefer Sutherland) as the golden lads of the basketball team and Mary (Tracy Pollan) as their favourite cheer-leader.

Two years later, Davy has become a disconsolate small-town cop, getting his kicks on the shooting range; Mary is a disconsolate academic, wishing she had a husband and kids; and Danny, having left town, is enmeshed in matrimony with a tiresome neurotic drunk (Meg Ryan). As might be predicted, it does not end well.

It is a film remarkably lacking any inherent rhythm. As it cuts arbitrarily between one group of characters and another, it is hard to tell who is going where and why; and though they talk incessantly about their problems, the young people stay flimsily two-dimensional.

Although native Americans, the writer-director Michael Hoffman and the producer Rick Stevenson began their film making while at Oxford where they made a brave independent film called *Privilege*.

Retribution is an overlong, poorly plotted horror film which depends on a crushingly noisy sound track and derivative and desperate Grand Guignol nastiness: viz. one victim is bisected on a butcher's circular saw; another burns off his own head with a blowtorch; a drunken lady disembowels herself with a kitchen knife. The audience is likely to recognize the stock revenge-from-beyond-the-grave plot much sooner than does the obtuse cast of sleuths and psychiatrists. The debutant director was Guy Magar.

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Saturday 11 June	Manchester Cathedral
Sunday 12 June	St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh
Monday 13 June	Paisley Abbey
Tuesday 14 June	Durham Cathedral
Wednesday 15 June	Blackburn Cathedral
Thursday 16 June	St Asaph Cathedral
Friday 17 June	Wakefield Cathedral
Saturday 18 June	Lincoln Cathedral
Friday 24 June	Llandaff Cathedral
Saturday 25 June	Worcester Cathedral
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THE TIMES

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

April 28, 1988

Douglas Eyeions, a computer services expert, says prosperity depends on adjustment to the new employment structure

More than 90 per cent of the jobs advertised in *The Times* are concerned with vacancies for people who are not directly engaged in making things or performing physical services. These are the "information workers" — people who spend their working hours in collecting, absorbing, transcribing, analysing, storing, transmitting or communicating information.

Increasingly, information is coming to be regarded as one of the most important resources of an organization because information equals power. There is a rapidly growing demand for this resource and the skilled people who can handle it.

As the computers increase in power they process more and more information; as communication channels increase in bandwidth, the rate at which information circulates gets faster and faster. So more and more people are needed to participate in the information revolution, which is taking us into the new age of information.

Today more than half the working population are information workers and the proportion is increasing year by year as the basic industries become increasingly automated and less labour-intensive. Only about 15 per cent of these information workers are employed in organizations whose

primary output is direct information in some form or other such as databases, news services, broadcasting or publishing. But this percentage is growing rapidly.

The vast majority of these information workers deal with intermediate information that is not part of the final output in the production of goods or the supply of services. They are employed by organizations covering the whole range of industry and commerce in such fields as manufacturing, distribution, retailing and professional services. These employees constitute a high proportion of the workforce in most large companies, starting with the switchboard operator, who is the first input information node of the organization, through to the sales analyst, who reports on final sales.

In any large organization there are many other information workers such as clerks, accountants, secretaries, planners, marketing specialists and managers, who deal only with information and never come into direct contact with the actual final product of the organization.

For example, there is certainly a vast army of information workers in financial services who never touch the actual money in which they are dealing, so that information about money is becoming more important than money itself.

Only 2 per cent of the UK working population are now em-

The big jobs revolution of today has switched to the information workers

played in agriculture compared with more than 70 per cent in the 18th century. The percentage of the workforce engaged in manufacturing peaked out at about 40 per cent around the middle of this century and has been dropping ever since.

In the great movements that have taken place over the decades in the distribution of the workforce, there has been an incessant increase in the number of information workers required to satisfy an ever-growing need. And now that food, clothing and shelter requirements can be met by a smaller and smaller percentage of the gross domestic product, a greater amount is spent on information in its widest sense.

For example, television, radio, films, books, newspapers and database services are all subject to an increasing demand as leisure time increases and as the importance of information as a

contributor to profitability becomes more and more obvious.

A common misconception is that the majority of today's workers are employed in service industries and that there is an inevitable move from manufacturing to services that will continue into the foreseeable future. The fact is that the service industries are now being subjected to intense automation, just as agriculture and manufacturing have been intensely automated in the past.

Instead of seeing the shift in employment as a change from manufacturing to services, it should be seen as a shift from manufacturing to the information age into the information age. The majority of the workforce will be employed not in agriculture, manufacturing or services, but in dealing with information.

Admittedly, such service industries as travel, leisure and health care are increasing in their employment at the present time, but all the repetitive parts of these services are being automated wherever possible and the information content of the remaining tasks is increasing.

The automation of the service industries is continuing apace. Bank clerks are being displaced by cash-dispensing machines, ticket-collectors are being displaced by automatic ticket machines, and the computers are taking over relentlessly where only simple decision-making is involved.

We should be raising the general level of awareness of these fundamental changes in employment patterns and gearing our educational and training systems to produce information workers who

will be dealing with intellectual property and software rather than with tangible goods or physical services.

We are moving out of the era of hardware into the era of software. Already the number of people in this country engaged in the manufacture of computer hardware is smaller than the number in the computing software industry.

Similarly, the interests in the software or programmes for television is increasing while the labour content of the television hardware is decreasing. A further example is provided by the increasing number of information workers employed in writing articles and reports for books, magazines, newspapers etc. while the printing process is being increasingly automated and employing fewer people.

Hardware is history. The future lies with software.



The factories that manufacture the hardware are becoming increasingly automated as the robots take over, and the robots themselves are now being manufactured by robots in automated factories. The financially successful manufacturing companies employ fewer production workers and more information workers.

The key to future economic success lies in our becoming an advanced information society where the vast majority of the workforce are engaged in knowledge-based occupations while the manufacturing and services industries become increasingly automated and capital-intensive rather than labour-intensive.

Most of the people reading this newspaper are information workers, whether they realize it or not, and many of them are examples of the structural changes in employment that are taking our society from an industrial economy to an information economy. It is vital for our future prosperity that we recognize this fact and educate our workforce to play its true part in the new age of information.

Dr Douglas Eyeions has been director-general of the Computing Services Association since 1979, and is the senior permanent official of the European Computing Services Association consisting of the national associations of 17 European countries.

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April 28, 1988
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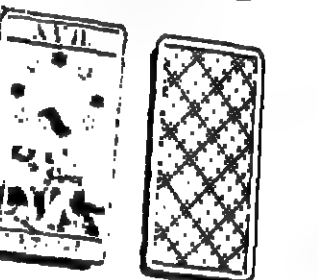
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مكازم الأهل

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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and should have experience as a consultant within the recruitment industry as well as experience in management. The position is based in Central London. For the right candidate the position offers excellent prospects: a very good salary and an equity stake that will have substantial value when the company eventually goes public. Please send your C.V. to the Managing Director, Box H 89.

HONOURS GRADUATES

*Additional Tax obtained by
Tax Inspectors for the year
ending 31.3.87
= £750 million
(Board of Inland Revenue Report)*

ARE WE LOOKING FOR WHAT IS WRONG OR WHAT IS RIGHT?

Sometimes it's hard to tell. Is a business genuinely perplexed by the intricacies of the Tax Laws and in need of help, or is it merely trying to cover a trail of used tenners? When does creative accounting go too far? Judgement, intuition, insight and experience are all essential in considering such questions. It soon becomes apparent why we need special qualities in the Tax Inspectorate. Try lawyer, advocate, accountant, investigator, negotiator and manager for starters. It sounds difficult, but it's all covered in our Tax Training - the best you can find - little wonder it takes three years. We have to get it right, we are the professionals. By the time we've finished you'll be ready to take on some major challenges, and we'll reward you well for it too. Salaries are highly competitive - new entrants can start at anything from £8000 to £12,500 depending on age, qualifications and experience. After passing the final exams approximately 3 years after joining you will be on a minimum of £15,050 - more if

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Scope of Maintenance

The facilities to be maintained include building services, air-conditioning plant, telecommunication, medical gas supply system, boilers, kitchen equipment, laundry equipment, biomedical, surgical and laboratory equipment, building automation system and other hospital related facilities.

The hospital was completed in 1983 with a gross built-up area of 16 hectares. It has 1750 beds and also a large out-patient department.

Qualification

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Interested candidates should write in full details of qualification, experience and salary expectations within three weeks of the appearance of this advertisement to:

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Wardswift

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Advertising &
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MSL International



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ORGANISER

The Engineers' and Managers' Association, which represents the professional and allied staffs in aerospace, electricity supply, engineering, oil, shipbuilding and other industries, invites applications for the post of Organiser.

The successful applicant will undertake recruitment for the EMA, including the promotion of the EMA and will undertake organisational duties as may be appropriate. He or she will need to be an effective communicator with different audiences and through the media; to be energetic, have a lively mind, and willing to travel widely in the UK, and to be able to drive. He or she will need to be sympathetic to the aims and objectives of the EMA and preferably to have some experience of industry.

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Applications should be sent to:

John Lyons,
General Secretary,
Engineers' & Managers' Association,
Station House,
Fox Lane North,
Chertsey,
Surrey, KT16 9HW.

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Maine-Tucker

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39 Pall Mall S.W.1 London SW1Y 5LR Telephone 01-925 8546

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Age c 40-45

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Current expansion in the Country practice of John D Wood & Co has led to two vacancies, one in our Chippingham office and one in our new office in Farnham due to open in June. In both cases we seek a person 25 to 30 years of age, preferably but not necessarily with experience, who is prepared to commit him or herself wholeheartedly to a secure and exciting career within the company and specifically to the office he or she joins.

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Any enquiry will be treated in total confidence and should be made direct to:

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SALES PROFESSIONALS

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HORIZONS

A guide to career development

The perils of going solo

Having obtained a qualification in boat-building, a young relation of mine decided to start his own business. A year or so later I asked how he was getting on, but it transpired he wasn't. He had given up the idea and joined a local boat-building firm instead.

It was not that he had been unsuccessful. He lives in a part of the country which is popular with the sailing fraternity and at certain times of the year - high summer, for instance - he had been inundated with work.

At other times business tended to be slack, and this clearly worried Andrew, who was sometimes never sure where his next commission would come from. But there was another problem: the paperwork was getting him down.

Paperwork? What paperwork? The prospect of being one's own master may seem so enticing to the uninitiated that they overlook the day-to-day realities that self-employment incurs.

I believe it is important for any would-be entrepreneur to rid himself of delusions right from the start. As with any worthwhile project you need to weigh up the pros and cons.

Many people imagine that being self-employed will afford them a greater measure of independence. This is illusory. True, you do not have a boss breathing down your neck day in day out, but you are still dependent on somebody - your suppliers, your clients - and the latter may prove a good deal more demanding than your old supervisor.

For some this may not seem a worrying prospect since they expect the increase in income will more than compensate for the extra responsibilities. But will it? Here again you need to separate the dream from the reality.

If you are setting up in business from scratch you will probably find that until you build up a regular clientele you will have a fairly lean period. For one thing, you will probably need to inject a large amount of your savings into your work.

Another problem is that your clients may prove to be surprisingly dilatory when it comes to paying up. Instead of receiving a regular income, your remuneration seems to be notoriously irregular. You may find that you are unable to pay bills as and when they come in.

Most people feel that going it alone will offer them the opportunity to do something they like. But if you believe you can spend all the time deploying your favourite skills you are in for a rude awakening, as was the case with Andrew. For you have to be not only chief cook but bottle washer as well.

Do you feel up to keeping simple accounts, marketing your services and collecting debts, in addition to the tasks you carry out in your workshop or study?



Self-employment means taking your work home with you, and an irregular pattern to life, not least in payment of money owed to you,

says Roger Jones

Some people certainly find the variety of tasks they need to perform stimulating, but others find them a chore they seek to wriggle out of.

There is another problem. If you are in a salaried job, there is usually a demarcation line between work and your own affairs. Once you start to do your own thing, it is likely that your work will spill over into your private life. While this may not upset you personally, your family may come to resent such intrusions.

I recall a conversation I had on an airliner with a businessman who had started out on his own a year or so previously. Unfortunately he had been so preoccupied with his work that he had not been able to reserve time for his family responsibilities, and his marriage had broken down as a result.

There is clearly a moral to be drawn from this unhappy experience. If you are married, it is unwise to make a unilateral decision to go it alone. Discuss it with your partner. Make sure that he or she understands the pressures that you will be under at the start.

Even when things seem grim you may console yourself with the thought that once you have solved the first problems you will be enjoying the fruits of your enterprise. After all, if Laura Ashley could build up her business into a multi-million pound affair, surely you, Joe Bloggs, can do the same?

Statistics, alas, belie the optimism.

Half the new small-businesses started do not last three years, and only 40 per cent of the survivors reach their tenth birthday. Most tend to remain small. The exceptions seem to be those owned by experienced directors who re-invest most of their profit.

Unless you are extremely lucky, self-employment is synonymous with hard work rather than easy money.

Yet for those who do pull it off, there is much satisfaction to be gained from not being a cog. If you have the personality for this kind of thing it can be as challenging and exciting as a trip up the Amazon. Don't forget, however, that even experienced explorers sometimes come to grief and that there are a lot of piranhas in the Amazon.

Such thrills and spills are not to everyone's taste. Some people rate security more highly than adventure. This is not necessarily a personality weakness. It just so happens that not everybody is multi-talented. Many of us are just not up to doing all our own marketing, financial management, strategic planning and so on, and we prefer to be part of an organization which employs specialists in these fields.

Responsibility is a burden that can weigh heavily on one person's shoulders, but it is not quite so bad if it can be shared with others. Most people thrive best when working as part of a team, and my boat-building relative is no exception.

Nowadays, Andrew is much happier and more relaxed. As an employee he can concentrate on what he likes doing most - building and repairing boats. He has no work bills to pay nor invoices to chase up - and he enjoys a steady income.

He has discovered early that self-employment has its drawbacks. It is fine if you possess entrepreneurial skills and a head for business. But if such matters bore you or cause you sleepless nights, it might be wiser to think twice before opting for power and glory.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(Urban Development & Environment)

The Welsh Development Agency plays a key role in the expanding programme of urban redevelopment being undertaken in Wales by the Government and other public bodies. The Agency, with its wider responsibilities for the regeneration of the Welsh economy and its well established links with the private sector, has a particular contribution to make in promoting enterprise and job opportunities in older cities and towns as well as stimulating reconstruction of the physical environment of those areas.

The task will involve developing, in conjunction with the Welsh Office and local authorities, a strategy for the development of Agency resources applied to urban renewal in ways that will maximize their effectiveness and their ability to attract private sector investment in the same task. There will also be a major role in the execution of that strategy including stimulating and helping negotiate property deals, oversight of land recreation, project management of building works necessary and, in conjunction with colleagues within the Agency - more particularly those responsible for venture capital investment and management consultancy - encouraging business development. The person appointed will also oversee broadly the construction work carried out by the Agency all over Wales.

The task is therefore very wide ranging and no single candidate is likely to have all the skills involved. However, the candidate will, under the Chief Executive, be leading an existing strong team and therefore a prime requirement will be an ability to manage effectively the professional skills of others. The successful candidate is therefore likely to have experience at a senior level of management in a commercial organisation probably involved in some aspect of property development. A grasp of the financial and legal implications of such activity is more important than of the technical details of those areas.

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WDA
WELSH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

In the first instance please telephone Mr T Stanton on 0272 736767 or send your CV to:

Mr T Stanton
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125 Penybroke Road
Clydach
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Scott Marchant Recruitment
Essex House, Station Road, Uppminster, Essex RM14 2SL
Tel (04022) 50577 (24 hrs)

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We are a leading recruitment consultancy with offices in London, Brighton and Reading, specialising in Financial Services and Law.

Due to continuing expansion we wish to appoint an additional Consultant, to join a young and highly professional team in our London office.

The successful applicant will be highly ambitious and self-motivated, in the age range 24-30, with an exceptional track record in recruitment, sales, or marketing.

We offer an excellent remuneration package and extremely attractive career prospects.

For further particulars, telephone Gabriel Duffy on 01 831 2288. Or write to him at 31, Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HJ, marking correspondence for his personal attention. Evenings/weekends, phone: 0273 733797. Absolute confidentiality guaranteed.

Gabriel Duffy Consultancy

LONDON • BRIGHTON • READING

FURNISHING FABRICS DISTRIBUTION

DMC TEXUNION, A LEADING FRENCH MANUFACTURER OF PRINTED FABRICS, SEEKS A MANAGING DIRECTOR

FOR TEXTILES (FGD) LTD, ITS NEWLY ACQUIRED SALES COMPANY IN LONDON.

This post would suit a dynamic, well-motivated Sales Manager with proven experience, and good contacts particularly in the decorator and retail sectors, who wants to progress into general management.

In addition to strong sales drive and real management ability, an appreciation of market needs in design and colour is essential.

PACKAGE NEGOTIABLE AROUND £30,000 + car.

Send CV in confidence to our consultant: J.L. Kemp, 17 Heath Drive, London NW5 7SL.

LE COURT
Hampshire's Leonard Cheshire Foundation Home
for Severely Physically Disabled People

HEAD OF HOME

Applications for this challenging full time post, are invited from persons whose previous experience suggests that they have marked characteristics of unobtrusive leadership, human understanding and considerable administrative and business management ability.

Candidates should be between 35 and 55 years. Previous experience in Social Service type of work could be an advantage, but this is not essential. The Selection Committee will attach greater importance to the character, adaptability and background of the candidates and the degree of success they have achieved in whatever walk of life they come from.

Salary will be by negotiation, in the region of £15,500-£16,500 per year (according to age and experience). This appointment is now vacant.

Please write for the Job Description and Application Form to:

The Acting Head of Home,
Le Court Leonard Cheshire Foundation Home,
Grafton,
Liss,
Hampshire GU33 8HJ.

Closing date for return of completed application forms is 4th June 1988.

DEC Software Sales

OTE £35K - No upper limit

Our client is an established systems and software house poised to take the next step in its planned expansion.

Their reputation and success have been built on the creation of original and innovative software for financial and commercial applications.

Existing products have proven themselves in a highly demanding market based in the City; at the same time a range of outstanding new products are generating keen interest from a wider clientele.

Ambitious, high calibre professionals with a proven track record in a relevant market should apply to:

Executive Solutions Limited
Wolverton House
London Street
Basingstoke
Hants RG21 1NT
Tel: (0256) 466950 (24 hours)
Fax: (0256) 840248

ADVERTISING SALES

ON TARGET EARNINGS £40K p.a.

The launch of a series of major international titles has created opportunities for effective ambitious sales people. If you are able to talk to senior executives in a professional and convincing manner then we would like to talk to you. There are likely to be early management opportunities for the most successful applicants.

In the first instance please call Chris Humphreys or Ben Crocker

01-240 1515

WOULD YOU FIT INTO FINANCE?

Some people fit into it very well. Especially young people who enjoy achieving and achieving fast. We're looking for determined men and women aged 21-40 who can make the most of all the training and back-up a successful, expanding organisation like ours can provide.

We're looking for dynamic individuals to join a highly professional team providing specialist advice on all aspects of personal and business finance including taxation, mortgages, pensions and insurance.

We're looking for motivated people who can take advantage of a superb career opportunity and who have the potential to join a management team after an initial period.

Now, do you think you'd fit into finance? If you do, simply phone David Hayman on 01-734 8786.

CHEMICAL SALES

OTE £20K +

International Chemical Company needs 5 people aged 20-30 years to sell its range of chemical products abroad. Travel full time internationally. Fully equipped, 2 weeks training, commission with bonus.

Company Secretary Hosokawa Mikropul Ltd., Towerfield Road, Shoeburyness, Essex SS3 9QU

Continued on next page

ORGANISER
Engineers' and Managers' Association, which represents the electrical supply, engineering and other industries, applications for the post of

successful applicant will be recruitment for the EMA, the promotion of the EMA, undertake organisational duties be appropriate. He or she will be an effective communicator to different audiences and through the media and willing to travel widely in the UK and abroad. He or she will be able to drive. He or she will be sympathetic to the aims and objectives of the EMA and will have some experience of

appointment is for a two year period. The salary will be £15,000 to £16,000 per annum. A car will be provided. A suitable superannuation scheme can be discussed. The successful candidate will be appointed on a permanent basis for the two years.

Applications should be sent to: John Lyons, General Secretary, Engineers' and Managers' Association, Station House, Fox Lane North, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 9HW.

Applications should be submitted to not later than the 17th May, 1988.

Maine-Tucker
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

RESTED IN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT? PKG £11,000

Outstanding opportunity for a highly motivated person to work for a top property management company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the company's portfolio of properties. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the company's portfolio of properties. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the company's portfolio of properties.

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BANKING & ACCOUNTANCY

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the right
environment
for
professionals
with
ambition

We pride ourselves on the professionalism of our organisation and the constant improvement of our services.
We have high expectations of the two professionals (CIPFA) presented we appoint to these positions, trained to strengthen our technical section. Your own expectations will be met - an excellent salary and benefit package and an environment which offers support and encouragement, progression.

CHIEF TECHNICAL ACCOUNTANT

to £22,095

- To lead the Technical Section with the view to achieving divisional targets
- Direct responsibility to Assistant Director of Finance.
- To implement and develop new systems and computer technology

We are looking for sound experience in this field combined with considerable management ability. This high profile role will ensure excellent future prospects, as the departing post holder has discovered to his benefit!

PRINCIPAL TECHNICAL ACCOUNTANT (Research and Projects)

to £20,000

- Working on your own initiative on specific projects
- Contribute to team objectives and work as effective member of team
- Work at the highest level and provide information on technical finance issues.

This is a new and demanding role for an individual with a genuine interest in the subject.

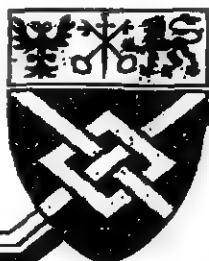
BOTH ROLES OFFER:

- leased car
- substantial housing subsidy
- relocation expenses
- paid overtime

If you would like to discuss these roles please phone Mike Parsons, Assistant Director of Finance, on 01-545 3584.

Application forms are available by ringing 01-545 3277 and should be returned by 13th May 1988 to the Support Services Section, Finance Department, Crown House, London Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 5DX.

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Merton is an Equal Opportunities Employer
All applications will be considered on their merits



Corporate Finance

The Institutional Dimension

c£28,000+bens.

The ability to evaluate financial detail and the commercial flair to advise the most senior corporate clients on strategy and timing, illustrate the type of skills required for a successful career in Corporate Finance.

Add to these diplomacy, and the ability and determination to work under considerable pressure and you will understand why this area represents such a stimulating and rewarding career challenge.

We are currently acting as consultant to a number of leading U.K. Merchant Banks who have asked us to assist in the initial briefing and selection of suitable applicants.

If you are a graduate and qualified either as an accountant or lawyer, then Corporate Finance could be an ideal career option.

To arrange an initial informal discussion, phone Roger Tittle M.A. or Mike Masterson B.A. (Cantab.) or write enclosing full career details. We will be pleased to offer impartial advice, in the strictest confidence, prior to the submission of your application.

the *fleet* partnership

Financial Recruitment Consultants, 37/41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. 01-831 1101 (24 hours)

ENTREPRENEURIAL ACA

AGE 25-28

City Based

c. £30,000 + Car

Our client is one of the most prestigious and successful asset-based financing organisations in the UK. Their market place demands an increasing degree of expertise and sophistication, particularly in their key areas of aircraft, property and film finance.

A steep learning curve is envisaged for the successful applicant who is likely to come from a leading firm of Chartered Accountants. As it is unlikely the individual will have had exposure to our client's main activities, we are interested in identifying individuals who can show a combination of first rate academic attributes together with a confident and highly motivated

commercial approach. Initially, the work will involve assisting in deal-making activity but will lead to the individual initiating and controlling major financings within two years.

Occasional visits of up to two weeks duration to Japan, Australia and the USA should be expected and the pressures are such that long working hours can be expected from time to time. In return outstanding financial rewards are available in the medium term.

Interested applicants should write to Fiona McGahan ACA at the address below, or call her for further information on 01-930 7850.

ROBERT WALTERS ASSOCIATES

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

66-68 Haymarket London SW1Y 4RF Telephone: 01-930 7850

Swap Trader

To £60K base salary
plus bonus plus benefits

Our client is one of the world's leading investment banks with a substantial presence in the international capital markets.

The bank's swaps activity is based in London, where there is a team of traders, marketers and technical staff. Swap groups in New York and Tokyo report to the Head of Swaps in London and all swap transactions are authorised in London.

Because of the Swap team's success in London, the bank is seeking an additional Swap trader. Applicants should be graduates in their mid

to late 20s with at least two years' experience in the market running their own book.

Career prospects are excellent. The base salary will be up to £60K and in addition there will be the opportunity to earn a very substantial performance-related bonus. There is also a range of investment banking benefits.

Those interested should forward a comprehensive career resume to Nick Bennett or Nick Root at Michael Page City, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH. Confidentiality is assured.



Michael Page City

International Recruitment Consultants
London Paris Amsterdam Brussels Sydney

An excellent situation has just been created in London.

U.K. income tax rates are now lower than most other European countries. On the strength of this, Merrill Lynch are aiming to expand the services we provide to Private Clients.

We are looking for high performance registered representatives to work in one of our London Offices. Are you one of them?

Do you have at least 2 years experience in banking, securities or insurance and have a salary of around £25,000?

Are you organised, assertive, self-motivated, ethical, goal orientated and able to take direction?

Would you like to work for one of the largest and most creative global firms in the industry, which provides training and a wide range of relevant products and services with an involved, strong, non-competing and motivating management?

If so, contact Walter Elliott between 9am and 7pm on the 28th and 29th April or 3rd and 4th May on 01-581 7451.



Merrill Lynch

Jonathan Wren

EUROPEAN REGIONAL AUDITOR ACA

c£20,000 + banking benefits

Our client, a major US financial services corporation, with its international headquarters in London and a European branch network, wishes to recruit an individual for the above vacancy.

THE CANDIDATE:

Applications are sought from candidates who match the following criteria: Motivated graduate ACA's who have recently qualified, with strong audit skills. First class interpersonal and analytical skills are essential, as is the ability to work within a team environment. 30% European travel is envisaged.

PRINCIPLE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Operational and financial evaluation of the organisation's functional effectiveness.
- To provide written and verbal recommendations regarding audits.
- To propose remedies to any weaknesses or shortfalls found.
- To lead and manage audits/auditors contributing to audit methodology and drafting final reports.
- To establish relationships with business managers and their functions with a view to providing advice and guidance on a wide range of issues.

Career opportunities are excellent both within audit and, in the medium term, elsewhere within the organisation.

Contact Brian Gooch on 01-588 7756 or forward a detailed curriculum vitae.

LONDON HONG KONG SINGAPORE SYDNEY

Jonathan Wren

Recruitment Consultants
34 London Wall London EC2M 4SA Tel. 01-588 7756

GENERAL APPTS.

Continued from page 35

GROUP PUBLIC RELATIONS

Due to retirement, we seek a replacement group public relations executive responsible for all promotional work: press relations, literature (design/photography/print/digital advertising), annual product/internal newspaper, and video/events/displays etc.

We are the leading environmental engineers to the computer user industry. Nine companies with 300 employees.

The selected executive, preferably a-house MRP with knowledge (some technical writing) of air conditioning/refrigeration products, will be rewarded with a good salary, company car, company pension, profit sharing and four-week statutory holidays. Applications, in writing/in confidence to Mr George Wiggall, Group Chairman, giving outline of qualifications/experience and success story to date.

CVs £17,000



Wright Air Conditioning Ltd
Sampson Road North
Camp Hill, Birmingham B11 1BL
A Wright company

HUNTER BOATS LTD

Sutton Wharf, Sutton Road, Rochford, Essex. SS4 1LZ
An opportunity for

G.R.P. FOREMAN LAMINATORS

Hunter boats are always recruiting SKILLED laminators for permanent positions. Our company is recognised as one of the UK's leading production boat builders.

£15,000 to £XX,000 per year achievable

Also, will train unskilled persons of either SEX. Same rates available after training. Contact PAUL CLARK on: (0702) 546541

SALES CAREER c£25,000

A newly formed company which is part of an established group of companies has six new positions in London. Immediate and the Home Counties for sales executives. You will be between 20 and 45 years of age and have a good education; possibly from a retailing or refrigeration background. However, applicants without relevant experience will be considered as full training will be provided. You will negotiate directly as a director/owner level for the installation of our unique and proven product with no competition.

These are permanent and prestigious positions with unlimited scope for improvement and promotion throughout the group. For further details please contact: The Recruitment Officer, Ecomess Ltd, 188 Lower Richmond Road Richmond Surrey, TW9 4JL. Tel 01 878 7705 For an immediate interview.

A SALES CAREER WITH SUN LIFE OF CANADA

Offering an exciting and rewarding career, combining security and real opportunity. Full training, attractive prospects and attractive remuneration. Suitable applicants, aged between 24 and 45, can be employed in the area of their choice. Telephone: (0202) 614144 or write to Sun Life of Canada, 100, The Quadrant, London, EC4A 3DF.

DRIVER - COURIERS

25-35 required for summer 1988 season for overnight carrying holidays, P.V. licence and languages advantages, although training can be arranged. Subscribers Ltd, PO Box 2, Baffin, TSS3 5SL.

BOOKEEPER

Required for a fashion company in West End with experience up to trail balance. Typing useful but not essential. Age 25ish. Salary upto £11,000 p.a. depending on experience.

Tel: 631 3959
No agencies

GENERAL APPTS.

ARE YOU CURRENTLY IN SALES?

and have the hours and the pressure?
But...you still want to earn £250 per week?

...Then write enclosing full C.V. to Maggie Vaughan, Colour Library Books Ltd, Unit B4, Godalming Business Centre, Cottesloe Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XW.

You would be self-employed working only during office hours for a multi-million pound UK publishing company, delivering samples and collecting orders. There is absolutely no hard selling. You would need your own car and telephone.

SALES EXECUTIVES

£13,000 BASIC + CAR + BENEFITS

Leading corrugated manufacturers need an experienced sales person to cover North London/Essex. Reference 41355.

For an immediate interview contact: Premiere Employment on 0442 281378.

ENGINEERING

CUSTOMER SERVICE ENGINEER(S)

SALARY: £Negotiable

HOURS: 35 hour week - Monday to Friday (some overtime may be required)

QUALIFICATIONS: HNC Electronics (City and Guilds (TEC) or equivalent.

DUTIES: Site responsibility for advanced CT products.

Applicants should have considerable experience and be capable of working without close supervision. Fault finding to component level is essential.

Apply in writing with a full c.v. and indication of your salary expectation to: The Company Secretary Elscint (GB) Ltd

Tower Road, Berinsfield, Oxford OX9 8LW

ACCOUNTANT

Accounts Office Manager required by North London Building Contracting & Estate Agency companies. The person appointed will have the following qualifications:

- Experience of producing final accounts from incomplete records.
- Capability of computerising the accounts department, to have the ability of producing regular financial & management accounts.
- Extensive experience in credit control, credit management, debt collection & court procedures.
- Practical experience of managing accounts staff.
- Good knowledge of company taxation.
- Age 26-35.

Send C.V. to Colson & Hildes Ltd, 34, Toppelfield Parade, Church End, W8 8PT. (Marked Private & Confidential) to Mr David Abame.



Accountancy Personnel

Placing Accountants First

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

SE1 £25,000 - £30,000 + CAR + BENS

International Shipping and fleet management Group offer Divisional responsibility to a Qualified ACA with 2 years PQE +. The role incorporates management of "Finance function" Division's computer systems, Project Analysis (acquisitions of company's assets) and deputising for the F.D. etc. Bens Car, STL, Pension, Profit share, Group share, Club membership etc. Ref:GHM/2120

70 Watling St, EC4 Tel:01-236 0657

NEWLY QUALIFIED

SW3 £20,000 + LARGE CO BENEFITS

International Oil Exploration Company offers excellent opportunity for a newly Qualified to get in at the ground level and gain in-depth post qualification experience, with a view to taking over one of their subsidiaries of primary importance in the ability to lead a management team and act on own initiative. Ref:CS81

43 Brompton Rd, Knightsbridge, SW3 Tel:01-581 5021

مكتبة الأمل

LA CREME

The Raine Partnership

SECRETARIAL MANAGER

Create a Brand New Service
London c £11,500

This obstetrics and gynaecology unit, part of a major London Hospital, is looking for someone with ambition and imagination to set up and manage their own clinical secretarial team.

As a focal point for both consultants and secretaries, you'll need good managerial and motivational skills with some knowledge of hospital life.

A secretarial background with the necessary ability to administrate, co-ordinate and delegate, you're looking for the opportunity to achieve and maintain a high standard of service.

If you're ready to meet the challenge of managing your own team, call Jenny Eley today.

13 PRINCE OF WALES TERRACE - LONDON - W8 5PG
TELEPHONE 01 937 4454/5

Recruitment Consultants

Executive Research

Windsor : £ negotiable

March Consulting Group is probably the UK's fastest growing firm of management consultants. Founded in 1983, we now have over seventy professional staff operating from our offices in London, Manchester, the City and the USA. Our Executive Search Division has an extensive and prestigious client list and now requires an additional Researcher to join our Windsor based operation serving clients throughout the UK and overseas.

As a key member of a professional team, you will complement and support our Executive Search consultants in identifying and investigating sources of potential candidates and evaluating company performance and individual contribution.

A degree or equivalent is required, but equally important is initiative, the ability to work under pressure and a sound understanding of an interest in the business world. Two or three years commercial experience and a thorough understanding of corporate management structures is essential. Additional training will be given in Executive Search techniques.

Salary is negotiable and there is a profit sharing scheme and other benefits which add up to a very attractive package. There are excellent prospects for career development within an expanding and professional organisation.

Please send full career and personal details to: Penny Fieldhouse, March Consulting Group, March House, 13 Park Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1LU.

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Appointments

TRADING PLACES £2,750

International trading company with links in the USA, Switzerland and Africa requires an enthusiastic office assistant to be involved in WP, sales opening and verbal administration duties. Call us now for an immediate interview.

SOCIAL SET £9,500

Successful on market City company seek a social team secretary with good audio skills assisting 2 young executives. Responsibilities include liaising with agents, visiting properties and arranging in-house lunches.

STEP OUT IN STYLE £10,000

Young fast expanding clothing company who supply top fashion houses with their latest designs require an efficient office secretary/administrator. Your responsibilities will include client liaison, organising meetings, plus some secretarial duties.

DESIGN DESTINATIONS £10,500

Fast and eager to work in the exciting field of design? The opportunity is here using your secretarial/administrative talents. You'll be working on the design floor and in the studio with therefore variety of assignments.

ALSO FOR WELL PAID TEMP ASSIGNMENTS CALL US NOW

43 BROMFORD RD, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, SW3 1DE
01-225 1777

14 GREAT CASTLE ST, OXFORD, OX1 1LA
01-255 3140

CHAIRMAN'S PA/SEC

c £11,000

The Chairman of the UK's leading distributor of computers and peripherals is looking for an exceptional P.A. You are aged 40+ with a confident manner, able to work under pressure, have excellent organisational skills, and the ability to communicate at all levels. Word processing and typing skills would be a distinct advantage.

If you have these qualities, ring Tricia Ryder now on 01-381 4100 Ext. 262.

Northamber plc
Lion Park Avenue, Chessington, Surrey KT9 1SU
No agencies & no other papers please

DOWN WITH TYPING... UP WITH RECRUITMENT!

If you have a secretarial background and are over 30 you could join us as a:

Trainee Interviewer

Personnel Appointments recruit quality secretaries for commercial and industrial companies and offer self-motivated individuals excellent rewards and job satisfaction.

Telephone Mack Dinshaw on:
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Project Administration

Based Weybridge c £15K

Inform's innovative approach and clear philosophy have made us one of the fastest growing companies in the UK. Established 5 years ago and now employing over 130 people, we offer an extensive range of computing products and services to our broad range of major corporate clients.

We are embarking on an exciting new development project and require a Project Administrator with 2 years experience, ideally within IT or finance.

The need here is for a bright and enthusiastic individual who thrives when organising and co-ordinating a pressurised team.

25-30 years old, graduate calibre, ambitious and with excellent PA skills, you will also have good keyboard skills and have used PCs. In all, we need a results orientated driver who can prioritise effectively.

The benefits and career prospects are impressive, just as you would expect from a dynamic, young progressive company.

Please reply with a full CV to:

The Personnel Manager,
Inform Pte.
Inform House,
Addlestone Road,
Weybridge,
Surrey KT15 2UE.

No agencies please.

MACRAE for Secretaries

OPEN THURSDAYS UNTIL 7pm

PERSONNEL SEC £12,000

2nd year exp. light and only 5/6 yrs. This is the job for you. Variety and a good salary. Call us now for an immediate interview.

JUNIOR PA £10,000

South East London. Young and energetic. Good salary. Call us now for an immediate interview.

PUBLIC RELATIONS SEC £10,000

30% STAFF DISCOUNT. Good salary. Call us now for an immediate interview.

MATURE SECRETARY £12,000

Professional PA close to Clapham. Good salary. Call us now for an immediate interview.

FASHION SECRETARY £12,000

Super opportunity with top fashion house. Good salary. Call us now for an immediate interview.

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SALES ASSISTANT

£15,000 Package

One of London's leading business houses is looking for a proactive, energetic and motivated individual to support professional business trading operations. You will be responsible for checking and confirming orders, receiving payments, and maintaining the accuracy of trade books and related documents.

To succeed in such a demanding environment, you must have exceptional organisational and communication skills combined with creativity, confidence and the ability to take the initiative and responsibility. Fluency in another language is essential but not essential.

Call us now for an immediate interview.

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PR SEC

NO SHI £9,000

Public Relations

Company with state of the art equipment. Young and energetic. Good salary. Call us now for an immediate interview.

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ual, if not unknown, for an English court which had to decide a question of principle to be confronted with a freedom from authority not generally experienced since the times of Lord Hardwicke and Lord Mansfield. Like every freedom, carried with it great responsibilities.

The court must not shirk the decision and, where it might govern a law which was the property of all civilized nations, the court had to be self-effacing to its own. Above all, there being no clear and definite consensus among the sources which the court might consult, the court ought to welcome an opportunity of supplementing them with reason and justice.

The court must not shirk the decision and, where it might govern a law which was the property of all civilized nations, the court had to be self-effacing to its own. Above all, there being no clear and definite consensus among the sources which the court might consult, the court ought to welcome an opportunity of supplementing them with reason and justice.

When the gift of legal personality was explicable on grounds of practice and expedience, it was hardly respectful of such motives to hold that the members made it so as to escape liability for themselves. Why?

Was the court to think that they put up this player, this poor player, to strut and fret his hour upon a municipal stage and then to be heard no more, while all the time they were washing their hands of the enormous costs of the production?

The obligations of hospitality are very great. When the benefits, too, were great, it was right that they should be. But was it not an insult to the dignity of sovereign states to credit them with the intentions of the meanest who, omitting to say that

His Lordship thought better of international law than that. He could not say that so many had studied and learned men had studied in that stannary those centuries past for the court to say that they had won only that. It could not have been for anything that Grotius taught: The law obliges us to do what is proper, not simply what is just".

For those reasons, his Lordship would hold that the ITC and separate personality in international law, but that its members were nevertheless jointly and severally, directly and without limitation liable for debts on its tin and loan contracts in England, if and to the extent that they were not discharged by the ITC itself.

Lord Justice Ralph Gibson gave a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Kerr.

Solicitors: Eborne Mitchell;

balancing

Decision

at Act. Likewise in the passing of the 1985 Act, reference might have been expected of the 1980 Act if Parliament had so intended.

Children of families who were considered intentionally homeless were not deprived of receiving under section 1 of the 1980 Act such assistance, where appropriate, in the form of accommodation as emergency

Ultimately, what steps should be taken was a decision for the local services department of the particular authority in the exercise of its discretion under sections 1 and 2 of the 1980 Act. In discharging its duty under section 1, the local authority had

take into account the position under section 65(3) of the 1985 Act and the availability of other accommodation with members of the family or at community homes and such like before resorting to section 2 of the 1980 Act.

However, in considering the question of the welfare of the

children if that were a long-term problem, the solution would not properly lie under section 1 of the 1980 Act; the local authority would have complied with the requirements of both statutes if it took into account section 1 of the 1980 Act when it acted under Part III of the 1985 Act.

families were once more forced out of their temporary accommodation provided under the 1985 Act; there was no evidence to suggest that the welfare of the children had not always properly been in the consideration of the local authority.

If and when any family might become homeless, it would be for the local authority through its officers to decide whether it should, acting under section 1 of

Solicitors: Alan Edwards & Co., Northing Hill Gate, 10, Nathan Southall, Steyn; Mr S. Tobias, Tower Hamlets.

Council failed to carry out balancing exercise in homelessness decision

Children of families who were considered intentionally homeless were not deprived of receiving under section 1 of the 1980 Act such assistance, where

Ultimately, what steps should be taken was a decision for the social services department of the particular authority in the exercise of its discretion under sections 1 and 2 of the 1980 Act. In discharging its duty under section 1, the local authority had

The evidence showed that the local authority's social services department had taken an eminently sensible approach to the instant aspect of the cases. What

However, in considering the question of the welfare of the children if that were a long-term problem, the solution would not properly lie under section 1 of the 1980 Act; the local authority would have complied with the

In the present circumstances the court would not grant a declaration in relation to the position which would arise if the families were once more forced out of their temporary accommodation provided under the 1985 Act; there was no evidence to suggest that the welfare of the

children had not always properly been in the consideration of the local authority. If and when any family might become homeless, it would be the local authority through its officers to decide whether it could, acting under section 1 of the 1980 Act, avoid taking the children into care, including the provision of temporary overnight or short-term accommodation in hotels and so on.

Solicitors: Alan Edwards &
Co., Northing Hill Gate; Mr
Nathan Southall, Stepney; Mr
S. Tobias, Tower Hamlets.



Piquet fuelled by pure genius

A love for one's sport, transcending victory itself, singles out the truly great. No one epitomizes this truth more than

THE WINNERS
Nelson Piquet who, Simon Barnes finds, leads a singularly quiet life even at 200 m.p.h.

Every Brit knows who Nelson Piquet is: he is the bearded, much too good-looking foreigner (a Brazilian, actually) who stops our nice Nigel from winning the world motor-racing championship. But real motor-racing men have a different attitude to him.

The other week I wrote about a skater who said he didn't care too much about jumps and pyrotechnics: "I want to be someone who just skates past and people say 'Wow, he must be the champion'." Piquet is a bit like that for motor-racing people: a pure, pared-down, effortless, graceful talent.

Those who appreciate the genuine subtleties of the driver's art would sooner see a single lap of Piquet's micrometric-precision driving than any amount of gung ho, barnstorming heroics from, well, Nigel Mansell, Britain's ever-heroic second best.

Mansell is a great talent, no question about that, and he might even win the championship this year, who knows. But the difference

English. "Every sport made good, I appreciate. The other day I was looking at the ballet-skating on television — this, personally, I do not like, but the thing is so well done, they are so well prepared, that I love to see it."

"The point about sport is excellence?"

"Yes."

Excellence was what I had gone to the Paul Ricard circuit in the south of France to talk about. Like: how come Piquet is so exceptional?

"I don't think I am exceptional."

"Come on."

"I am consistent. It is very easy, to do a good year and be a world champion — well, not very easy, but not so difficult. If you are in Formula One you have the talent already. So if you have the right car, and the right team, you can win. To win three times means I am very consistent for many, many years. I have been in Formula One for nine years and for five of those years I was in the top three. Other years, I was doing everything right but the car was not ready, or there were bad tyres, but if I have the chance . . .

"Well, in other words, I say, I don't care what I have done. I care about what I am going to do about next season. Because I do not live with what I did when I won those championships. This season I live with what I am doing this season."

That, I think, more than anything else, spells out the difference between the professional sportsman and the sports-watcher or, for that matter, the sports writer. We might want to meet both so that we can ask him about his magical 149th Grand Prix victory. But we want to talk about facing the West Indies this summer. Indeed, a journalist once went to interview him and found a cricket bat lying in the rain in the garden, where his son had been playing with it. It was, yes, the bat with which he had scored that 149. Practising sportsmen are not into nostalgia: they are too eager for the next confrontation.

Piquet is not just handsome and talented and rich. He also has a clear nutty streak. He has shiny brown eyes that dart about the place, looking for something to interest him. He recently joined Team Lotus, which is sponsored by Camel cigarettes. Piquet is a non-smoker but when his new car was unveiled he carried a cigarette into the press conference and pretended to smoke it. A mild joke. But Piquet took a quiet, disproportionate pleasure in it, bringing it to his lips and knocking imaginary ash into a real ashtray for quite half an hour. I found this bizarre.

Piquet is an original. He is one of those sportsmen who seems to reinvent the game as he goes. "I enjoy everything made in the top," he said, in his vivid, idiosyncratic



and mental strength are directly associated. If you are quick for one lap only, you do not win anything. You have to be quick constantly. And this is all mental."

"What has given you the edge over Mansell?"

"Nigel is a very quick driver."

"And you are a winner."

"Well, in Formula One, 50 per cent of winning is the car. You have to treat the car very well to finish the race. Nigel is a little bit heavy on the car. The Williams car is very strong, indeed, but he has sometimes done things in a race and has had to stop, because the engine, because this, because that . . . I am easier with the car. Much easier."

"And this is your edge?"

"Yes. I don't have any mind preparation but what I do is, I look at the times from the Saturday, the day before the race, and see what change I have. I see if I have a chance to win the race, or if I have to maybe settle for second and go for the points. Sometimes I see my car is two seconds quicker than any other car and I have only to go out there to win."

Perhaps one of the things the outsider most envies about sportsmen is the fame: the way these top performers know without question that they have left some kind of mark on the world. But fame is not as much fun as it is cracked up to be: the point is that it is not something you can ever have on your own terms.

Many a sportsman has courted fame quite deliberately, exploited it with all his might, and has then got miffed at the discovery that the coin has a reverse side. The name of Botham again floats irresistibly into the mind.

Piquet has, at least, been consistent. These days he does his stuff for the cameras and the tape-converters with a good enough grace, conversing easily in a bewildering number of languages, but this is not, for him, what the job is about. "In Brazil I have friends I have had for 15 years. I have also been in Europe for about 12 years and here I have made very few friends. I have always liked simple people. I don't give a damn for high society. I don't want to make friends with anybody who is important."

Does he like being famous?

"No. I would prefer to have the same profession and the same enjoyment — and the same money — and nobody knows me. It is not possible, I know, but for me it would be much better."

"I think the most important thing if you want to keep going in motor racing is never to read anything. If you read bad things that people write, or you think maybe people are speaking bad things about you, you go and fight all the little details you should not fight — and then you lose to stop Formula One. So first, I never read anything. Second, I am a friend of everybody. Anybody write bad things about me, next day I am

talking to him, no problems. I don't make enemies."

It is more accurate to say that he does not cultivate enemies. His bursts of temper, his sudden stinging attacks on colleagues, do not make him universally loved. But you get the impression that Piquet has never even noticed this.

Many a sportsman has failed to make the crucial adjustment to fame but Piquet has mixed cultivated ignorance and the Garbo technique to maintain balance. He used to live on a boat that had no telephone — he is between boats right now, having a new one built. He has a telephone, too, but it is fixed for outgoing calls only.

The love of racing, of driving these unbelievable machines, shines out in his conversation: not ambition, not winning, not hunger, not complacency, just sheer involvement and love of driving and racing motor cars. "I try to have an easy life and enjoy this thing here. I try to enjoy what I am doing."

"That is why I am at the racetrack now, that is why I have spent 10 years in Formula One, that is why I have spent 10 years at the top — because I enjoy what I am doing so much. I like to drive, I like to be here, and everything comes so very easy for me." It is those that love winning too well that know best the bitter taste of defeat. The true winners, the great winners, are those that love their sport for its own sake, and not as a medium for mere victory.

RACING

Derby tilt likely for Alwuhush after Ascot win

Alwuhush, previously one of the best maidens in training, finally came good in the White Rose Stakes at Ascot yesterday to complete a double for John Dunlop and Willie Carson.

Dunlop had saddled just two winners before yesterday but the victories of Alwuhush and Sergeyevich in the group three Insulpak EBF Sagaro Stakes put him well up among the season's top prize-money winners.

Alwuhush, who had shown so much promise here when a close third to Sanquarico in the Royal Lodge Stakes last season, beat Saudi Desert by 1½ lengths to earn a top-priced 33-1 quote for the Derby.

On his only previous outing this season, Alwuhush had finished last of five, behind odds-on favourite 2,000 Guineas favourite Doyoun in the Craven Stakes, beaten 13 lengths. But he was clearly far better suited by yesterday's longer trip.

"He has taken a long time winning," said Dunlop. "After running such a good race in the Royal Lodge he then drew a complete blank in the Funtun and I've never known why."

"His run at Newmarket was not as disappointing as it looked — they just went too fast for him. He wants a longer trip and I would think the Lingfield Derby trial in a fortnight's time would suit him well."

Dunlop admitted that time was running out for his classy filly Ashayer, who has been sidelined with a muscle injury. He had been hoping to run his Prix Marcel Bouscat winner in the French 1,000 Guineas but she has only just resumed cantering.

"It looks as though we'll just be able to give her one run to see if she stays and go straight to the Oaks," he added.

Sergeyevich looked a leading contender for this season's sycamore crown when giving weight and a beating to his four rivals in the Sagaro Stakes.

Last year's Goodwood Cup winner made all the running under Willie Carson.

To hold off Shimshek by three-quarters of a length and earn a return visit for the Ascot Gold Cup.

Trainer John Dunlop said: "It was a good performance and we'll be back in June for the big one."

A similar front-running performance by Pat Eddery on Wing Park also paid off in the Insulpak Victoria Cup Handicap.

Alan Bailey's tough handicapper best off all-challengers to win by half a length and a length from Captain Holly and Barclay Street.

The winner was bought for just 1,300 guineas as a yearling and Bailey could now run him in the Royal Hunt Cup. "He loves this course and is a very hard horse to pass when he is in front," said the trainer.

Dance Teacher made short shrift of her three rivals in the Insulpak Stakes to provide

trainer Charlie Nelson with a timely boost on the eve of the Guineas meeting.

Nelson's Bellefleur, a 30-1 shot for Saturday's 2,000 Guineas, worked particularly well with this winner last week at the Lambourn meeting. It is the filly's victory is a good omen.

The Ascot stewards inquired into the poor performance shown by Newbury winner Lavence, a well-beaten last in the White Rose Stakes.

Trainer Susan Piggott and jockey Bruce Raymond could not account for the display and a routine dope test was ordered.

Ray Richards, whose Insulpak company sponsored the first three races on the card, was on the mark once again when Lugana Beach carried his colours to victory in the Guineas Stakes. Richards won the Victoria Cup at the meeting last year with Fusillier.

Lugana Beach came from last to first to peg back Jacky's Almost Bipe and provide chance

Cecil duo backed

Henry Cecil's pair, Diminundo and Blackbook, were the best-backed horses on the card of the General Accident 1,000 Guineas (P.M. McLennan writes).

Diminundo consolidated her position as second favourite behind Ravinella with the Tote and Mecca, who report solid win and each-way support for last season's Hoover Mile winner. Both have not Shells Mohammed's filly from 6-1 to 11-2.

Blackbook came in for heavy each-way backing with William Hill and is now 12-1 from 16-1 while the Tote have reduced Magic Of Life from 9-1 to 8-1. Ravinella remains 5-4 with most bookmakers although Hill and Mecca offer 11-5.

Elsworth, who has more than 40 two-year-olds this season, said: "He wouldn't be my best but he is certainly not my worst either."

Charm booked her place in the Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot on June 15.

An impressive victory over odds-on Naval Fan in the Sedbury Maiden Auction Stakes at Catterick yesterday. "She would be my first runner in the Queen Mary," trainer Rod Simpson said.

Amateur William Hetherington was backed for two years (May 6-7) for improper use of the whip on Madjore in the Hame Maiden Hurdle at Kelso yesterday. The stewards found that Hetherington had "used his whip in a wild manner and with unreasonable frequency."

Results from three meetings

Ascot

Going good to firm
2.0 (1m) 1. DANCE TEACHER (J. Reid, 10-30); 2. RISSANAS (S. Caughan, 10-30); 3. SHADDOCK (W. Ryan, 10-31); 4. ALDO RAN (J. Reid, 10-31); 5. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 6. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 7. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 8. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 9. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 10. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 11. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 12. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 13. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 14. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 15. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 16. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 17. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 18. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 19. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 20. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 21. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 22. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 23. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 24. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 25. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 26. G. G. Nelson at Newmarket, 10-31; 27. G. G. 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From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Hamburg

The German championships were true to type yesterday; up to a point, anyway. Unfortunately, the draw was so unusually weak that the quality of the tennis could not match the quality of the sunshine the players were enjoying.

Tuesday, Bahrami sent Iran a message of good wishes on the age of 24 and settled in Paris but has recurrent problems with visas, although better players have recurrent problems with Bahrami but enjoy his company anyway.

Ten of the men seemed to reach the fast 16 failed so to do, mainly because most were flustered by the disruption of a seeding. The most surprising result yesterday was Darren Cahill's 2-6, 7-6, 6-1 win over Martin Jaffe.

As an example, he often stooches a yard or so from the service line (sometimes less) when receiving Becker's service, which is not exactly a dab from a powdered puff. In one rally he twice chased the ball back to the net, and in other jobs, returned the ball between his legs each time (with his back to the net).

His next opponent will be a distinguished clay-court specialist of a decade ago, Guillermo Vilas, who won the German title in 1978.

Europe in 1972. Later he won the French, United States and Australian championships, rose to second place in the world rankings, and inspired South America as a whole to reach for the heights. Yesterday he beat Ulf Stenlund, 7-5, 6-2.

The last 16 will be numerically dominated by Germans, Argentines and Swedes.

Becker is competing for only the third time and has yet to win. He explained yesterday that he plays here only in alternate years. The fuss people make of him tends to be

RESULTS: Second round: R Ossarmun (WVG) bt M Schapers (Nem), 7-5, 6-0, 6-0; R Schwane (WVG) bt Pugh (USA), 6-3, 5-6, 6-0; G Bostrom (N) bt J. Nystrom (Swe) 6-3, 5-7, 6-4; J Nystrom (Swe) bt J. Chapman (Fin), 6-0, 6-2; G Perez-Roldan (Arg) bt M Westphal (WVG), 6-0, 6-2; C Mezzadri (Switz) bt A Taus (Sp), 6-3, 7-5, 6-4; H Skoth (Austral) bt J Swensson (Swe), 7-6, 6-7, 7-5; B Becker (WVG) bt M Bahrami (Iran), 6-3, 6-4, 6-0.

distracting. "It's a much bigger challenge for me here than anywhere else," he said.

Becker had an amusing, 6-3, 6-3, win over a qualifier, Mansour Bahrami, who celebrated his 32nd birthday on

June (C), 6-4, 6-3; C Bergstrom (Swe) beat H Norring (WEG), 6-3, 6-4; J Arrese (Sp) beat C-1 Swaab (WEG), 6-3, 6-4; K Karlsson (Swe) beat P Reboredo (Crai), 6-1, 6-1; D Cahill (Aus) beat J Eange (Arg), 2-6, 7-6, 6-1; Yunes (Arg) beat M Jang (Crai), 6-3, 6-4; G S. G. (Arg) beat J S. (Swe), 6-3, 6-2; H Lecons (Fr) beat B Starnick (Crai), 6-3, 6-2.

LTA adopts hard sell

In a move to attract sponsors for all aspects, ranging from junior development to the Davis Cup team, the LTA has invited members of the Institute of Sports Sponsorship to a product presentation at Queen's Club.

YACHTING

Foreign entrants

to be restricted

From Barry Pickthall, Hyères, France

On a day of further mixed fortune for the British Olympic squad competing at the French Prix Olympic Regatta, which their early leads during racing at Hyères yesterday, it was again left to the British women Debbie Jarvis and Susan Hay

Chew both the Finn sailor, Stuart Bicklerley, and the 470 world champion, Nigel Buckley and Peter Newland, lose their leads, followed in the overall listings by Royal Yachting Association (RYA) announced that they are to restrict foreign entries at the British Olympic trials at Weymouth in June.

Rod Carr, the British Olympic coach, announced yesterday that the *Finn*, *Flying Dutchman*, *Tornado*, *Star*, *Sailboard* and *women's 470* classes will be limited to overseas teams using the Weymouth regatta as part of their trials.

The RYA also announced a further £12,000 to add to the

This extra money is to provide two intensive training camps at Weymouth for the Olympic sailors in July and August in a final build-up for the failure of Childers.

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL	TENNIS
SWISS LEAGUE: First division: Servoz 3-0; Lausanne 1, Lucerne 2. AMSTERDAM, DUTCH CUP: Semi-finals:	SUTTON: Hi-Tec International satellite tournament: Women: First round: C Lindeman (WGI) bt S Temms (GB) 6-1, 6-1; S Goodman

[illegible]

ORPAINWALL: Hospitality Hotels Cornwall Rivier tournament. Second round 128: A. Jordan (SI) 69, 65, 88, 140; K. Aspin (Preston Park) 75, 65, 141; H. Williams (Preston Park) 69, 65, 141; M. Hukon (7) 75, 65, 88; M. Aspin (Walsley) 65, 72; M. Thomas (Cranston) 75, 69, 142; D. Ammir (Aberystwyth) 75, 67; S. Lisle (Mickemhampton) 72, 65.

HOVEY:

ICE HOCKEY
STANLEY CUP: Play-offs (best of seven games): Adams (division; Boston Bruins 4), Montreal Canadiens 1 (Boston won 4-1).
World Cup: Canada (Olympic) Davis (International Capitals 1 (New Jersey lead 3-2).

[illegible]

WEIGHTLIFTING

ARJIF: European championships: Flyweight (52 kg): 1. S. Morrison (Ire) 250 kg (115 T/135 B); 145 kg: 1. T. O'Hanrahan (Ire) 250 kg (110/140 kg); 2. B. O'Hanrahan 230 kg (107/124 kg); 56 kg: 1. M. Grabiec (Bul) holder 257 kg; 2. N. Tazdzyk (Bul) 257.5 kg; 3. D. Zagreuski (Rom) 237.5 kg.

FUJISAWA: Japan: Japan women's open tournament Final, 6-3: 1. Fendick (USSR) by 6 Shultz (West), 6-3; 1. F. Fendick (US) by N. Meyer (USSR), 6-3; 2. Second round: 1. M. Sukovic (Czech) by B. Gordon (USSR), 6-3; 7-5; 2. N. Zuerova (USSR) by A. Hennrich (USSR), 6-3; 7-5; 1. E. Inoue (Japan) by D. Balatsky (Aus), 6-1; 6-2; 1. Savchenko (USSR) by L. Bonder (USSR), 2-4; 6-3, 7-5.

Age Group	Percentage of Respondents
18-29	65%
30-49	75%
50-69	80%
70+	85%

Critical crowd provoke Qadir

From Richard Streeton
Bridgetown, Barbados

Abdul Qadir, the Pakistan leg-spin bowler, punched a spectator on the edge of the field during the tense, closing stages of the third Cable and Wireless Test match between West Indies and Pakistan here yesterday, which West Indies won by two wickets to level the series one-all.

A disappointed Qadir, who had had a leg-before appeal rejected in the previous over, returned to long leg and briefly spat on the law boundary fence.

There was a lot of booing and shouting at him, and he stood up and exchanged heated words with about 20 spectators around him, then threw a left boot which landed a spectator's jaw before Hafiz Shahid, a Pakistan team colleague who was walking round the ground, pulled the player away.

The match was held up as the Pakistan manager, Imtiaz Alam, and a police inspector went to where the angry spectators were milling around on the edge of the field. Albert Auguste, the spectator involved, was advised by a constable to lodge a complaint, and he was led into the pavilion by a police sergeant. Qadir was moved to deep third man and replaced by Saleem Jaffer.

Qadir had just snatched his cap angrily from David Archer, the umpire, after an over during which the entire Pakistan team surrounded the official and protested when he turned down the leg-before appeal against Dujon with the score 187 for seven. Javed Miandad, in particular, could be seen shouting at the umpire. Six or seven Pakistanis were on their knees pleading, and the match was delayed for five minutes.

The crowd started booing and jeering, and the barracking continued unabated as Qadir walked to his fielding position. Qadir is understood to have complained he was being swarmed at. Other spectators said that Auguste and others had been shouting: "Why don't you bowl properly," when Qadir seemed to lose his temper and approached Auguste, who was subsequently taken to hospital for an X-ray.

Match report, page 42

Pallister shores up England

From Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent
Budapest

Hungary 0
England 0

Bobby Robson yesterday found a potential answer to a problem that threatens to dismantle England's challenge in the European championship. Gary Pallister, lifted out of the second division and into the international arena, could scarcely have been more secure or assured during his debut as a central defender here in the Nép Stadium.

In the absence of Butcher, who will seemingly not be available for the June tournament, Watson and Wright, England's manager was left with no other choice but to include the 22-year-old from Middlesbrough into his already experimental line-up. Pallister, relishing his sudden promotion, responded with a performance that was unexpectedly encouraging, though there will be more severe tests ahead.

Robson agreed with an assessment of the youngster as "worth a million dollars." Yet there was little else to open his eyes in the first-ever draw between the two nations. "We lacked that final bite and a cutting edge," he said. "Our appetite was missing but that was Bryan Robson's best game for six months. Now I know 18 members of the squad for West Germany. There is room for only two floaters."

Bryan Robson was a typically tireless and forceful leader, particularly after England had suffered an awkward opening. Hoddle, brought on again midway through the second half as one of four England substitutes, added glorious touches of grace and skill to an otherwise uninspired occasion staged in front of some 26,500 spectators.

Pearce was once more painfully exposed for his ineptitude at left back even before he retired through injury. Beardsley and Lineker have never been so ineffective as the spearhead. Waddle was not yet fit enough to perform on such a stage and Steven's contribution on the other flank was only marginally superior.

Rearranged and unusually inexperienced, England's start was predictably tentative. Temporarily frozen in mind, movement and understanding, their technique was frayed around the edges. Nowhere were the deficiencies more

apparent than in an especially youthful back four which, apart from Anderson, had collected a mere 10 caps between them.

They were vulnerable to everything designed by the Hungarians and by the influential Detari in particular. A sweeping pass inside the full back, a long ball through the middle or a burst of speed down the flank broke their formation. In such circumstances, Pallister had no right to be the most reliable figure.

Adams, his senior partner, was anything but. Arsenal's 21-year-old captain was significantly fortunate not to be punished for his sequence of errors, all within the first 25 minutes. He lost his shadow, Vince, deep inside the area, failed grotesquely to control a chip with his chest and then blatantly felled Detari in full flight.

Although Detari picked himself up and struck the ensuing free kick against the foot of a post, Woods otherwise had no need to take action and his afternoon as Shilton's deputy was thereafter increasingly comfortable.

They could reflect on the creation of several promising openings. Amid the early difficulties, for example, Lineker's chase for McMahon's inviting pass was ended illegitimately by Szendrei, Hungary's goalkeeper. No penalty was awarded by a West German referee.

Once Adams had revived from his personal disarray, England recovered from their collective confusion and were never again in genuine danger. McMahon, growing accustomed to his new role as the midfield foil for Bryan Robson, should have put England ahead a few minutes before the whistle. Released delightfully by his captain's disguised chip, he could achieve no more from a narrow angle than attempt to dislodge the kneecaps of Szendrei.

Pallister almost crowned his day shortly before the hour but, climbing alone to meet Waddle's corner, he nodded wide to his own despair.

HUNGARY: Szendrei (Molnari), Kozma (Rajcsics), Kovacs (Szalai), Szalai (Molnari), T. Balog (Veszi), A. Bath (Fenyvesi) (sub: Varga, MTK), J. Kapti (Gyarmati) (sub: K. Kovacs, Honved), Garaba (Renesse), J. F. (Honved), L. Detari (Eintracht Frankfurt), V. Vince (Eintracht).

ENGLAND: C. Woods (Preston), V. Anderson (Manchester United), S. Pearce (Nottingham Forest) (sub: G. Stevens, Everton), T. Wright (Sheff Wed), B. Watson (Arsenal), G. Pallister (Middlesbrough), B. Robson (Manchester United), S. McMahon (Everton), P. Beardsley (Liverpool) (sub: M. Halsey, Middlesbrough), G. Lineker (Barcelona) (sub: A. Cottee, West Ham United), G. Waddle (Tottenham Hotspur) (sub: G. Hoddle, Middlesbrough).

Referee: K-H Trittcher (West Germany).



Crying out for a goal: Lineker goes down in Hungary's penalty area

England must come into line

From David Miller
Budapest

Everyone knows how the England defence will play, what their formation will be. Detmar Cramer observed at half-time yesterday: "There are never any surprises," he said. The least surprise of all is that England as a consequence are often made to look inflexible.

Cramer, formerly one of West Germany's leading coaches and currently a close adviser to Franz Beckenbauer, was saying what is, like England's defence, transparently obvious. They play to an out-of-date formation, four men marking zonally as they did in Ramsey's day and as everyone in the English first division has done since.

The 4-4-2 formation is inevitably going to be a limitation against the 1-3-3-2 formation which almost every prominent team in the world is now employing, for example, Hungary.

A sweeper and two close marking defenders are now always sufficient to cope with the two-man attack presented by almost every opposition. The key to the game is now mobility in midfield, with players breaking forward into attack. England seldom had anyone in the first hour other than Lineker or Beardsley making runs into the penalty area, though Robson was always looking for the 20 yard shot.

It has been necessary for several years, in my opinion for England to conform if they are to have real international prospects. The argument against changing the system, as Ron Greenwood once again commented this week, is that nobody in club football is accustomed to playing with a sweeper. Both Greenwood and Don Revie toyed with the idea when England manager, and with Wilkins as sweeper, but abandoned it.

Looking at the alarming,

intermittent incompetence of England's defence in the first 20 minutes — a vulnerability seen against both West Germany and Holland this season — a change cannot come soon enough.

England's defence, with or without Butcher, cannot be guaranteed to survive against the fast footwork of clever forwards such as they will meet again in June. They were fortunate to survive against the exciting Detari, back home from Frankfurt, yesterday.

At the risk of learning expensively, the European championships should — and always should — be used as a building platform for the World Cup. Greenwood and Revie both were reluctant to do so. Yet good players, such as Hansen, for example, or Robson can learn to play to any system.

There must surely be two players in England who could learn to be close markers over a season of international play,

instead of zonal markers. I fear for our World Cup qualification against Sweden in the autumn.

The advance of liberating an extra man for midfield cannot be over-emphasized. There were regular occasions yesterday, when England's rearguard was unemployed against two opponents. There is even talk in the England camp of having an extra tackler in the midfield quarter, presumably at the expense of Waddle or Barnes (when fit), to protect the weakness of the central defenders: thus committing six men, including the goalkeeper, primary to defence.

England are short enough of the creative flair in midfield to release the abilities of Lineker and Beardsley, without sacrificing someone who can pass the ball. There has not been a play-maker since Brookling, and before him Peters and Charlton: given Hoddle has never fulfilled his promise.

END COLUMN

The boy from Bowral tells all

By John Woodcock

Like many public figures, Don Bradman was an essentially private person. For that matter, he still is. The publication, therefore, of *The Bradman Album*, nearly 800 pages of cuttings relating to his amazing cricketing career, is an unexpected windfall.

"The keeping of scrapbooks in a variety of forms became something of a hobby indulged in by my mother, my some relatives, a cricket-loving brother-in-law, even in later years by my literary agent in London, and, quite incredibly by cricket-lovers who were complete strangers. As the collection increased in size so did my possession of odd pieces of cricketiana. Bradman says in his introduction to *The Bradman Album*."

Becoming aware of the existence of such memorabilia, the chief librarian of the state library of South Australia eventually persuaded Bradman, after working on him for some years, to make the whole collection over to the library, which is where it now is in a magnificent bound leather volumes... available for public scrutiny and historical purposes."

The condensed version has been rubber-stamped by the great man himself. Unlike one or two biographies of him, it has his full blessing. In the first of numerous introductions, Bradman says that after leaving school at 14 (in 1923), he devoted a whole summer to tennis, owing to the influence of a favourite uncle.

Memories of the bodyline series

But by the time he was 17 he was scoring 300 in the final of the Tom Mack Cup, out in the bush. He improved on that in next year's final by making 320. From start to finish the march of triumph is almost unbroken. The bodyline series (1932-33) he describes as "a temporary hiccup." "In retrospect," he writes in another of his notes, "perhaps I can take satisfaction in saying that my own part in events may have been largely responsible for outwitting tactics so foreign to cricket."

Thousands of cuttings have been reproduced, illustrating every yard of the way: telegrams, letters, photographs, articles, scorecards, posters, menu cards, theatre programmes, diary entries and much else.

On Wednesday, August 20, 1930, the fourth day of the fifth Test match at the Oval, he wrote in his diary: "continued game. Difficult, dangerous, wicked. Archie and I made a stand. I was given out caught by Duckworth off Larwood for 232 but did not hit the ball."

"I scored 98 before lunch, and broke all previous records for a series of Tests. Others, batted well. Three cheers for Hobbs when he came out. To the Alhambra Theatre that night to see 'All Quiet on the Western Front'."

Insatiable appetite for run-making

Archie, of course, was Archie Jackson, and it was Jack Hobbs's last Test match.

The extent to which, by his achievements, Bradman dwarfed all around him, the hero worship to which he was subjected, the insatiable appetite for runs (one scorecard shows him to have made 260 for Arthur Mailey's team against Western Ontario, the opposition having been bowled out for 88); the scrupulous determination with which he conducted his business affairs; the composure when, in 1931, he looked like signing for Accrington in the Lancashire League; it is all there.

There is a lot of Neville Cardus and, from Australia's 1938 tour of England, a fair selection from *The Times*. "Men and Women Offer Blood: Nation is Watching His Fight: King's Personal Interest" were headlines blazoned across one page in the *Sydney Telegraph* when Bradman underwent an operation for acute appendicitis at the end of the 1934 tour. King George V asked for regular bulletins to be sent to Balmoral.

Bradman himself was not best suited by this. "As a private man and citizen, I always preferred to think of myself just as plain Don Bradman, the boy from Bowral," he writes by way of a valediction. Those of his marvellous admirers who can afford it will understand, by acquiring *The Bradman Album*, how extraordinarily difficult it must have been to do so.

Davis sweeps Drago aside to move into semi-finals

By Steve Acteson

Steve Davis, the World No. 1, required just 15 minutes yesterday to complete a 13-4 win over Tony Drago, of Malta, and move into the Embassy world snooker championship semi-finals for the sixth year running.

The fact that he has also reached the final each time, winning three to follow his first world title in 1981, will occupy the thoughts of his next two opponents.

Davis's priorities yesterday were to make sure he could book time on one of the practice tables and to convince himself that, at the semi-final stages, the tournament was only half-way completed and not nearing its end.

Drago, aged 22, was a far more cheerful loser against Davis than he had been following their last meeting at the 1986 United Kingdom championships. There he took Davis to the final frame of their quarter-final before squandering a chance to win by missing the final yellow.

It took him the best part of a year to recover but yesterday he said: "This time it has taken me only half-an-hour. I got beat 13-4, so no complaints. Steve is not unbeatable, he's just too good."

Davis led 12-4 overnight but could have won during the final frame on Tuesday evening — only to snooker himself on the final red.

Earlier on Tuesday, his dominance had allowed him to score 271 points without reply during a period which began with a run to the blue of 53 in frame six and ended with a break of 69 to begin frame nine.

Yesterday his break of 60, his eleventh half century of the match, finished the job. He said: "Once you have reached the semi-finals you're still only half-way through. You should have played eight sessions but there are eight more to go to the title and if you're feeling drained at that stage you've had it."

Jimmy White, the second

seed, once again showed his dislike for morning play when, after taking the first two frames to stretch his winning run to nine, and his lead to 9-1, he began throwing his cue and a series of errors were duly punished. His opponent, Tony Knowles, the No. 7 seed, compiled breaks of 52, 68, 124, 38, 32, to win five of the next six games.

Terry Griffiths, of Wales, awaits the winner of that match in the semi-finals. The 1979 world champion beat the world No. 3, Neal Foulds, 13-9, by winning four frames in a row.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: S. Davis (Eng) 13-4 D. Drago (Malta); S. White (Eng) 13-4 J. White (Wales); T. Knowles (Wales) 5-2 T. Griffiths (Wales); T. Wright (Eng) 5-2 G. Hogg (Wales). Semi-finals: S. Davis (Eng) 13-4 T. Knowles (Wales); S. White (Eng) 13-4 J. White (Wales). Final: S. Davis (Eng) 13-4 J. White (Wales).

Jimmy White, the second

Woosnam scrambles to victory

Scottsdale, Arizona (AP) — Greg Norman, of Australia, sank an 18-foot putt for a birdie on the first hole of a sudden-death play-off to earn himself and his partner, Ian Woosnam, of Wales, a one-stroke victory over Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino, of the United States, in the \$300,000 (\$160,000) Desert Scramble, an experimental tournament made for cable television.

The victory was worth \$100,000 (about \$53,480) each to Norman and Woosnam, and they also shared a bonus of \$50,000 (\$26,740) for winning the final hole. Nicklaus and Trevino each received \$25,000 (\$13,370) in the better-ball stroke-play competition, the final nine holes of which were televised live.

"I'm sure that's what people wanted to see — a great finish," Norman said. "We were far behind after 13, but I wasn't thinking of quitting. I told Ian that if we made a few quick birdies, we could tie things up."

Torrance reluctant to stay in distinguished company

By Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent

The Algarve, Portugal
Sam Torrance tees off in the first round of the Portuguese Open on the Quinta do Lago course here today, hoping to expel himself from an exclusive club.

Torrance revealed that, like Harry Vardon, Sam Snead, Ben Hogan, Peter Alliss, Tony Jacklin and Bernhard Langer, he is suffering from the putting yips, an involuntary movement of the hands which causes a player to twitch a putt.

In 1985, Torrance was hailed as the hero when he nervously holed a putt of 20 feet on the eighteenth green at The Belfry to secure for Europe a famous victory over the United States in the Ryder Cup. But he believes that the Ryder Cup match of last year may have created his current affliction.

"I started at the European Open last September and I think the thought of playing in the Ryder Cup may have been

Card of course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds
1	410	4	10	390
2	190	3	11	500
3	460	5	12	367
4	325	4	13	171
5	383	4	14	505
6	200	3	15	350
7	372	4	16	182
8	410	4	17	395
9	413	4	18	355